Sunday, May 17, 2009 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 158 P20 www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

ENLIGHTENED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

• Jewelry scandal rocks Manila • Socialites, business big shots join PacManiacs • Louie Cruz rewrites rules of partying • How Bert Lazada changed my life SUNDAY LIFESTYLE/ • What not to ask American Idol's 2 Davids ENTERTAINMENT/ • Journalism in the time of Nelly Sindayen SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE/ • Suu Kyi continues to torment her tormentors • Nograles won't give up on Cha-cha • GMA proclaims May National Hypertension Month • Surrender, AFP tells Navy whistle-blower; assures 'humane treatment' NEWS

LIGHTNESS OF BEING, HEAVY BURDEN A laborer carries on his back a bunch of Cavendish bananas at Barangay San Isidro in Carmen, Davao del Norte, each bunch weighing 40 kilos. And there will be more kilos to haul as he goes back to the plantation for more of the same. ART PACIO

Puno: Oligarchs still rule

'Gov't beholden to very few who hold RP wealth'

By Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE PHILIPPINES REMAINS IN THE CONTROL of oligarchs because the government is beholden to them, according to Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

"If you look at the wealth of the country, [you will see that] the control is in the hands of very few people," Puno said on Friday evening at the launch of the Moral Force Movement.

Because the government also requires beholden to "those who control the wealth of the nation," a system that can help Filipinos move forward is not possible, said the Chief Justice, who has been campaigning for national moral recovery.

"If you have that kind of preliminaries, we will never have a healthy democratic system. The rich are very few and the poor are the multitude," he said.

Puno named the fundamental problems afflicting the country as "the lack of morality, the weakness of our ethics, the problem of inequitable distribution of wealth, the problem of poverty and the problem of peace and order."

"All these problems [amount to] weakness of values," he said, adding that these were the issues on which the Moral Force Movement was focused.

Puno stressed that the movement was apolitical.

"This movement will not endorse anybody," he said in reference to those

PUNO A4

Tribal rituals cleanse, unite towns after chopper crash

By Delmar Carina
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KAMAYAN, BENGUET—THE CULtural belief in gods and spirits proved helpful as a coping mechanism for the Igorot communities shocked by the recent helicopter crash on Mt. Manginglik that killed an advance party for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tinec Mayor Lopez Pagong said he was unsure if the name of the crash site had something to do with the mountain's name.

"Manginglik" is a Kalanguya term that refers to the state of being lost in the middle of a forest, with the lost one finding it very difficult to return to where one came from, Pagong said.

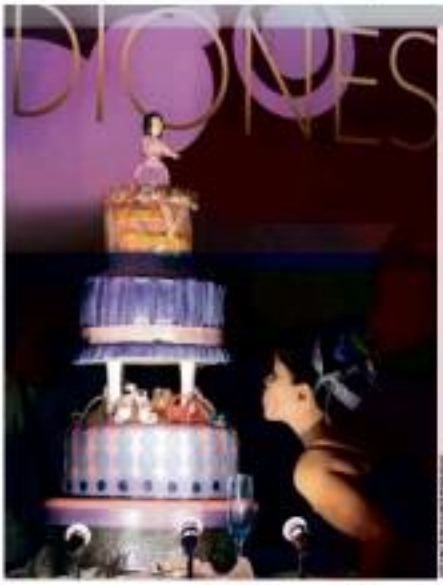
The officials and residents of two adjoining towns argued briefly over the exact location of the crash that occurred on April 7—Barangay Tawangan in Kabayan, or Barangay Ehab in Tinec, Ifugao?

But their dispute ended there. Culture became a unifying thread, particularly for those who took part in the rescue operation and who subsequently complained of bad dreams caused by the sight of the mangled bodies of the dead.

On May 1, the Ifukot of Kabayan called their counterparts, and five days later, the Kalanguyas of Tinec asked for their own ritual/s.

The two native priests performed the cleansing rituals—called *soyo* in Kalanguya and *kiwit* in Tinec—to help the mourners overcome nightmares, drive away the bad spirits and restore the serenity of the

TRIBAL A13



American 'Idols' idolize Pacquiao at Chavit's victory bash

By Volt Contreras

THIS TIME, IT WAS THE AMERICAN Idols' turn to ask for a photo-op with Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao.

Two nights before their sold-out concert in Manila, "American Idol" stars David Cook and David Archuleta dropped by for a "meet-and-greet" with the Pacman during a victory party held for the pound-for-pound king in Quezon City last Thursday.

Pacquiao took the mic for his own "Idol" moment later that night but didn't get to show off his vocal chops to the two Davids, who had left before the main concert started.

The Pacman did perform some of his own recordings before a hundred-plus guests at the posh Corinthian Gardens home of former Ilocos Sur

AMERICAN A13

Boxing king's Pac-mom is dazzling dancing queen

By Aguiles Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—IF PACMAN IS THE world boxing king, then Pac-mom is this city's new dancing queen.

Dressed in her imported lavender gown and expensive dancing shoes, Dionisia Pacquiao could have danced all night as she waltzed, tangoed and cha-chaed at her 60th birthday

BOXING A13

BIRTHDAY GIRL OF THE YEAR Dionisia Pacquiao, abandoned wife of two husbands, who raised her six children all by her lonesome, gets her just dessert on her 60th birthday care of Manny Pacquiao who lavishes his mother with praise. (More pictures on Page A13.)

KC reads their own story to 'children of war'

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Mindanao Bureau

MEDIKAL NORTH COTABATO—Beads of sweat ran down their cheeks and their clothes were almost pasted to their bodies as the children sat on mats in the stuffy classroom and listened intently to the story of a little girl caught in the middle of a war.

Even the irritating screams of the hundreds of fans peering from outside the windows to get a good view of the reader, who was a popular showbiz celebrity, could not break the children's concentration.

Not that the children were any less starstruck by the reader Kristin Cassandra (KC) Concepcion. It was just that the story was so familiar because it was almost their own.

Thirty Grade 2 and 3 pupils from the Sambulawan Elementary School here

KC/MINDO A9

KC CONCEPCION tells a story about children affected by the long-running conflict between government troops and Moro rebels at the Read-Along session sponsored by Inquirer Mindanao in Sambulawan village in Midsayap, North Cotabato, on Thursday. KC is also the UN's World Food Programme Ambassador Against Hunger in the Philippines. Senator Kiko Pangilinan is at right partly seen.

FIRST IN ASIA RP's street paper Jeepney aims at poverty reduction. (STORY

Jeepney, the street mag; buy it to help the homeless

By Sunshine Lichauco de Leon
Contributor

FOR ROLANDO THONGSON, A FORmer garbage collector, selling "Jeepney" magazine has changed his life.

"Before, I earned very little. Now, I earn a good income. I even get to save money, so whenever my child is sick, we take money out of my savings to take him to the doctor. I can now even afford to get married!"

Thongson is one of the vendors of Jeepney, a unique publication launched in March 2008 with a two-fold aim: To present the stories and needs of the poor and to provide a job that will earn

JEEPNEY A8

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Kalibo/Boracay	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Iloilo	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Cabanatuan	Partly cloudy	Ozamiz	Cloudy with rains
Legaspi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Catarman	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with rains

EZ2
2D: 13 26
3D: 28 17

SUERTRES
2PM draw: 4 4 2
5PM draw: 2 6 5
9PM draw: 1 2 8

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
4 3 3 8 6 9

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
2 3 12 19 21 26
P4,246,329.60

POWER LOTTO 6/55+1/10
46 21 14 5 23+3
P57,796,416.00

Nograles: Cha-cha is not dead

Speaker keen on pushing his amendment bill despite what others say

By Philip C. Tabosa

WHO SAYS CHARTER CHANGE HAS FIZZLED OUT IN THE House of Representatives?

Speaker Prospero Nograles is not about to give up on amending the Constitution although one of its main proponents in the House has claimed to have abandoned the idea.

Nograles said he would pursue the approval of his House Resolution No. 737, which seeks to lift constitutional restrictions on foreign businessmen investing in the country despite the clamorings of Cassandras like Rep. Luis Villafuerte that Charter change was dead.

"My own advocacy on the economic provisions shall continue with or without Congressman Luis Villafuerte," Nograles said.

"Congressman Villafuerte can withdraw, but there are other co-authors who may wish to continue," he said.

Villafuerte had earlier said he was giving up on his HR 3109, which calls for both chambers of Congress to revise the Constitution through a constituent assembly.

He said he would formally withdraw his signature tomorrow and urge his colleagues to desist from pursuing Charter change.

But Nograles said plenary deliberations on HR 737 could start this week although Congress has nine more session days before it adjourns on June 5.

"Let's just wait for [Villafuerte's] speech and let's cross the bridge when we get there," Nograles said, adding:

"This issue [of dumping the Charter's economic provisions] is not controversial among House members."

Con-con

The Speaker also said that if all other modes of changing the Constitution failed, the House could still pursue its proposal to hold a constitutional convention (Con-con), with delegates being elected during the 2010 polls.

"Let's see what happens. Con-con will be formally proposed in August, when it is clear that other modes won't work," Nograles said.

"The proposal is to have joint elections for all [in 2010], including Con-con delegates, but we won't cross [this] bridge until the end of August," he said.

Nograles declined to comment on suggestions that a constitutional convention would run as well with politicians seeking the presidency or a lesser seat because their terms of office may be cut short by any constitutional changes.

"That's speculation. Let's just wait," he said.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra, the author of one of four pending bills and resolutions calling for a constituent convention, said the issue would be discussed when the House committee on constitutional amendments meets on Tuesday. Experts on the Constitution are expected to attend the hearing.

Non-pols as delegates

Under Mitra's proposal—House Bill No. 3169—elections for constitutional convention delegates will also be held in 2010.

"The constitutional convention shall commence within 30 to 90 days after the elections," Mitra said in his proposed bill, known as the Constitutional Convention Act.

He said members of political parties would be barred from running for the convention. Delegates should be at least 25 years old, and they would not be able to hold public office a year after the convention.

Mitra said Commission on Elections officials had informed him that there would be no problem with including the constitutional convention election in the 2010 polls.

He said Liberal Party congressmen were supporting the proposed constitutional convention, and that more than half of the Nacionalista People's Coalition members in the House were also for it.

3/4 vote

The proposals for a constitutional convention have been pending in the House for a long time. The idea was floated again by Nograles on May 11, after it became apparent that time was running out for the proponents of a constitutional assembly.

Nograles quoted a group of congressmen as saying that if there would be no more time to push for a constituent assembly, "why don't we consider calling a con-con?"

"I [told them], 'You know, let's think about it, but I'm not giving up yet on my HR 737. We'll talk after the recess and let's assess," he said.

He refused to mention the congressmen's names.

Nograles also downplayed suggestions that HR 737 did not have the required three-fourths vote of Congress to amend a constitutional provision.

"The three-fourths vote is needed when we vote on [HR] 737. That's the number of we need people. By then, you need three-fourths of all the members of Congress including the Senate, with which, of course, the Senate will disagree. And somebody will question us by that stage," he said.

With 32 new party-list members, the total membership of the House and the Senate now stands at 284, Nograles said.

"Three-fourths of that. That's what's needed," he said.

'Just waiting'

Nograles said some lawmakers were just waiting to see if there were enough votes to pass the 3/4 vote.

"Sige kuwan, some of them are just waiting. If they see there are enough numbers, they will go. If they see that the numbers are not enough, they will disappear," he said.

Nograles said that if Congress would be able to pass the constitutional amendments before June 5, there would be room to do a referendum during the 2010 elections and would take effect afterwards if ratified.

"According to the proponents of Charter change, this will not happen during this 14th Congress. Everything is in preparation on the 15th Congress," Nograles said.

"From the proposals, according to their proponents, will take effect after the 2013 elections. That was the commitment by the authors. As we'll hold them to their commitment," he said.

2 poll automation bidders hurdle technical screening

By Kristine L. Alave

TWO CONSORTIA PASSED THE technical screening for the P13.3-billion poll automation contract, narrowing while a third company was disqualified by the Commission on Elections' Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC).

Spain's Indra Sistemas S.A., which formed a partnership with Smartmatic Alliance Holdings Inc. and Dad Interactive, and Smartmatic International, which formed a joint venture with Total Information Management Corp., were declared eligible to bid for the Comelec contract in competition for the 2010 presidential and national elections.

The SBAC unanimously disqualified the third company, the consortium of Israel-based Cibar Sure Bite Network, FP Cruz and Co. Inc. and Filipinas Systems Inc., yesterday afternoon for lack of documents and inappropriate technical papers.

SBAC chair Ferdinand Rabosa said the bid panel had yet to open the technical documents of the fourth bidder, AWA Group of Companies and Election Systems and Software International, after it ruled that it lacked key certifications. The consortium has a period ending midnight for reconsideration before the procurement committee.

With the eligibility of at least two companies to the next stage of the procurement process, the Comelec has ruled out the specter of a failed bidding for now.

Under the process elsewhere, a failed bidding can only be declared if **the eligible companies'** voting and election machines fail the criteria set by the poll body.

After the technical bid screening, the companies that pass it will be allowed to present their financial documents.

The consortium with the lowest bid will then share the voting and counting machines to the Comelec and to the public next week, Rabosa said.

He said he hoped the company would be able to set up the machines on Monday for the end-to-end demonstration on Tuesday.

"We are seven days delayed already but we will make sure to **amend the contract before the end** of the month. By June, we will be back on track," he said.

If the machines fail to pass the 26 criteria set by the SBAC, the company with the next lowest bid will demonstrate its machines.

Palace to solons: Don't rile public

By TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY CAUtioned lawmakers against agitating the public over Commission on Elections chair Jose Melo's assertion he was having "nightmares" over a no-elections scenario in 2010.

Presidential Political Adviser Ignacio Claudio said Melo's words fear was "extremely remote."

Claudio said to turn "pessimistic, confusion and anxiety" by anybody to talk about a "No-el" (no election)" scenario now.

"The scenario is extremely remote, so there is no need to panic, to point fingers or to agitate people against anyone," he said in a text message.

Presidential aspirants in the Senate ridiculed Melo over his warning, charging that the Comelec was "conditioning the minds of the public" to prepare for such a scenario.

Melo had expressed fears that **lousy bidders in the P13.3 billion** poll automation project would petition the Supreme Court to stop the national and local elections on May 11, 2010.

"This could result in a last-minute postponement or outright cancelling of the poll body on grounds of **total manual elections. That would** be chaos...that is my nightmare," Melo had told reporters a few days ago.

The Comelec had disqualified all seven bidders for poll automation, but later granted the appeals of four of them. It is racing against time to **set automation in place**, but has been hobbled by the stringent rules of the bidding process.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said personalities accusing Melo of conditioning the public mind to no elections were "overreacting."

"They are again using the issue of No-el, as well as the issue of term extension and perpetuation in power by the president as a publicity stunt to demonize the administration and hopefully on extremely short political stunt, which I think is not appropriate," Remonde said over dzBB radio.

Claudio advised the people to "trust the Comelec to find ways" to prepare for full automation, saying it has a full year to do so.

F.F. Cruz airs side on video

By Cynthia D. Balana

CONSTRUCTION MAGNATE FELIPE F. Cruz Sr. yesterday said he was not engaged in anything shameful, by way of clarifying the 28-second video posted on YouTube which shows him signing some documents on a lavatory in a men's bathroom at the Comelec minutes on Harrison.

In a telephone interview by Vice President Noli de Castro over the latter's radio program, "Boses Ka Ipo, Kapatid," the 90-year-old Cruz said the documents had nothing to do with an **investment deal** he was trying to obtain from the Comelec, but involved payments for Comelec Island in Palawan that he was purchasing for development purposes.

Cruz said he was in a hurry to sign the documents so he was leaving the next day for Palawan and did not mind signing them on the lavatory.

He said the man in a blue shirt in the background was his aide.

The man in a checkered shirt was his "accuser," not lawyer Ferdinand Rabosa, chair of the Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) of the Comelec, as mentioned in some reports, Cruz said.

"I pity Rabosa for having been dragged into this mess. I don't even know him," he said.

Asked by De Castro if he was planning to retire on Comelec Island, Cruz said he was not sure whether he would retire from work.

FF Cruz & Co./Filipinas Systems Inc. consortium last then failed to qualify for the Comelec poll automation project. (See story on this page.)

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Navy assures whistle-blower of 'humane treatment'

By Tarra Quismundo

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY called on Navy whistle-blower Lt. Nancy Gadian to surrender, saying she would be treated humanely.

Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner also said the military was not undertaking a "manhunt" for Gadian, the former Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) civil-military operations officer who accused her senior officers of pocketing more than P40 million in funds intended for the joint Philippine-United States-Balikatan military exercises in 2007.

"We are encouraging her to voluntarily surrender herself back to military control," said Brawner when reached by phone yesterday.

"The Navy, which [checks] have [custody of her, will treat her humanely and will ensure her security," said the officer.

Gadian should formalize the charges she made in public against top Westmincom generals, including retired Lt. Gen. Ruperto Cedo, who has denied that any Balikatan funds were disbursed during his watch.

Tens of countercharges

Brawner, who said the military was convinced Gadian's charges were false, said the whistle-blower must also face pending charges before the military for not returning to her post after her 30-day leave ended on April 23.

Aside from going AWOL (absent without leave), she has also been slapped with charges of insubordination and failure to liquidate expenses of almost P2,000.

The official warned that Gadian was risking more charges if she remained out of reach as the Navy may also file charges for her actions that publicly placed the organization and its former officers to question.

"She can be charged for conduct unbecoming an officer ... [because] one of the rights we give up when we become members of the military is the right to freedom of speech," said Brawner.

The military sees a team to look for Gadian at her Iloilo City address but failed to find her.

The military denied there was a special hunt for her.

Brawner said the apprehension order issued against Gadian was "just SOP [standard operating procedure] every time a soldier goes AWOL."

"There is no manhunt, we didn't form a special team," said Brawner, adding that sending out a wide message to all military units to look out for her and giving a description of her case is just "part of SOP."

"May soldier who spots the subject may then take custody of her and bring her to the nearest military facility," said the officer, adding that the same nationwide alert was up for other members of the Armed Forces on AWOL.

Goes into hiding

Expressing concern for the safety of her children, Gadian, a single mother of two, had gone into hiding, saying she was warned that Cedo's intelligence men had been sent to hunt her down.

Gadian, 42, filed her resignation from the service in April then made public her charges in an interview with Rodlyn Bonifac in Iloilo on May 12, stating that [interview and in subsequent radio and television interviews, the junior naval officer accused the former Westmincom chief (Cedo) of using the monikerong RPGB Balikatan exercises in Jolo, Sulu, as a "milking cow."

Gadian, then assistant chief of staff of Westmincom's civil-military operations, claimed that of the reported P46 million provided by the American side, only P2.3 million was released for Filipino troops.

She said she was willing to provide the money trail documents or substantiate her charges. She added that "other high-ranking officers" were involved but she would reveal their names "at the proper forum."

Her lawyer, Estrin Sobleza, said Gadian's resignation was effective May 1. "She's not AWOL, or a deserter. She has committed no crime." He said he would question the legality of any arrest warrant against her.

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PNP to activate Metro checkpoints

TO BETTER SECURE THE metropolis, the Philippine National Police (PNP) is poised to activate additional checkpoints at entrances to Metro Manila as an additional anti-crime measure.

The Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Paner) unit and National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) are finalizing a plan to review 11 checkpoints...or checkpoints—at Metro Manila's eastern, northern and southern boundaries.

"This is geared towards the safety and security of the people against criminal elements ... this is just to reinforce our anti-crime measures," said Senior Supt. Leocadio Espina, chief of Paner, the PNP's special anti-kidnapping unit.

"We are still moving our details and maybe within a month or several weeks from now, we can start," he said.

The measures would revive a checkpoint network implemented during the time of the defunct National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, Espina said.

Besides aiming to curb abduction incidents, the checkpoints are also aimed at shielding Metro Manila from the entry of criminal syndicates from nearby provinces, Espina said.

The checkpoints will serve as "permanent deterrences" of elite police units like the Special Action Force and Regional Mobile Group as armor points to the metropolis from the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite and Rizal.

Motorists need not be alarmed about the routine inspections, said the officer, as the checks would only be conducted "with due respect and permission of the vehicle owner."

Inspectors will involve checking vehicles for proper license plates, contraband or any suspicious presence inside.

"They can execute will be the ones to open their vehicles. Our police officers will observe the rights of the people and will follow standard operational procedure in conducting the checkpoints," Espina said.

Tarra Quismundo

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Dutch honor Pinay

A FILIPINO RESIDING in The Hague has been awarded the Royal Honor of Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau for her services in the Dutch and Filipino relations in the Netherlands, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Saturday.

Wida Tiongson-Wijsberg received the award from Mayor J. van Zanteven of The Hague acting in behalf of Queen Beatrix on April 24.

Wijsberg was recognized for her nearly 20 years involvement in Stichting Expositie (Expatriate Foundation), a Netherlands-based charity organization that helps street children and small communities in the Philippines. Cynthia D. Salazar

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Amalia asks: How can I steal what's mine?

By Julie M. Aurelio

ACTRESS AMALIA Fuentes has cried bitterness over a robbery case recently filed against her and her son in a Quezon City court.

Fuentes (not actor Amalia Fuentes) denied the robbery charges which stemmed from a 2007 complaint lodged by officers of Pilot Mountain Agriculture Corp., a company headed by her estranged husband, Joseph "Joey" Stevens.

"How can I steal from my own company? How can I steal something that belongs to me?" she told the business in an interview on Friday.

"I had every right to go inside that office," she said, adding that PMAC owns "a family corporation."

Fuentes said her son, Gerard Stevens, was "representing his shares in the company" but he was unceremoniously booted out of the corporation in 2007.

The actress, along with Gerard, posted joint bail of P54,000 in the sala of Judge Edgar Santos of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 222 on Friday.

Originally bail of P54,000 each was recommended for the two respondents, along with companions Edward Ramirez and Diosdado Cahill.

"My son is not gainfully employed, we cannot afford the full amount of bail," the actress had told the court.

The charges stemmed from a 2007 complaint filed by Rafael Amor and Editha Lopez-Bernardo of PMA Corp. which has its offices on F. Ramos Boulevard in Cubao.

The two alleged that Fuentes, with several others, pilfered the lock of the 19th office in November 2007 and carted away personal files, manager's checks, digital cameras, car registration papers, titles, checkbooks and stock certificates all worth a total of P141,720.44 reportedly belonging to Amelia.

But Fuentes denied the charges, claiming that the items in question, such as a passport and property titles, were hers.

"I am confident that the robbery charge will be reversed as it has no basis. How can I be sued for robbery if it belongs to me," she said.

Earlier, Fuentes said in a counteraffidavit that she went to the PMA office to retrieve her passport from Stevens's office.

Less than a month before the incident, Fuentes had publicly accused her husband of infidelity.

"They are using this case to leverage against me," she said.

Fuentes's son said the case was nothing but harassment. Gerard has filed a case against PMA for removing him from its board seat as treasurer of the company.

The actress added: "I know I will win this case because it has no legal leg to stand on."

WORLD HYPERTENSION DAY MAY 17 2009

Salt & High Blood Pressure: Two Silent Killers

MESSAGES

GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED

- High blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease, the leading cause of death in the Philippines
- Leads to heart attack, stroke and kidney disease
- Over 10 million Filipinos suffer from high blood pressure

REDUCE YOUR SALT INTAKE

- High salt intake is the cause of high blood pressure in 3 of 10 adults
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends consuming no more than 1 teaspoon of salt a day. The average daily sodium intake worldwide is about 2 teaspoons
- If salt intake is reduced by half, 2.5 million deaths due to strokes, heart attacks and chronic kidney diseases could be prevented globally
- Reducing salt intake is the least expensive way of preventing cardiovascular disease

Join the LOW-SALT RECIPE CONTEST!

Share your low-salt recipes and win cash prizes!

To encourage everyone to maintain normal blood pressure, the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Novartis Healthcare Philippines, in collaboration with the Philippine Heart Association and Philippine Society of Nephrology, are hosting this Low-Salt Recipe Contest.

Contest mechanics:
1. The contest is open to all Filipinos, male or female, aged 18 years and above.
2. The recipe should be a common everyday Filipino dish, preferably written in English, and include a brief explanation of how the dish was made (directions) even with minimal salt use.
3. Participants may e-mail their recipes with details of actual cooked dish to: lowsalt@novartis.com from May 17 to 31, 2009. Entries should be received in the week by 5pm, May 31, 2009.
4. When submitting your entry, please include your name, age, gender, latest blood pressure reading, and contact details (address, landline/cellular mobile phone number).
5. Judging will be held on June 1, 2009 by the Board of Judges composed of representatives from the participating companies.

1st Prize P 30,000
2nd Prize P 20,000
3rd Prize P 15,000
4th-10th Prize P 5,000

Log on to www.novartis.com.ph for samples of delectable low-salt, heart-healthy recipes prepared by Chef Rolando Laudico. For inquiries, call the Philippine Society of Hypertension hotline at 631-7970.

Presidential Proclamation No. 1761

World Hypertension Day Commemorative Apron

Chef Rolando Laudico proudly displays the 2009 World Hypertension Day (WHD) Commemorative Apron signifying their joint commitment to raise public awareness and to encourage all Filipinos to reduce their salt intake in an effort to stop the rising prevalence of hypertension and related health risks in the country. Photo shows (from left) medical nutrition specialist Dr. Rosario Aviado, Philippine Heart Association president Dr. Belen Cutiongco, Philippine Society of Hypertension president Dr. Abdiel Aquino, Baliuag Doctors Lying-In Clinic Inc. Department of Health Center for Disease Control and Prevention director Dr. Ysmerai Olorosa, Philippine Society of Nephrology past president Dr. Jose Gonzalez, Philippine Society of Hypertension founding president Dr. Ramon Alvarez, and Novartis Healthcare Philippines chief scientific officer Dr. Francis Domingo.

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Pass pending revenue-boosting bills, Congress urged

By Reinel M. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) has reiterated its call for Congress to pass pending revenue-enhancing measures amid a ballooning budget deficit, saying higher public spending boosts economic growth more than tax cuts do.

The DOF estimates that P20 billion worth of public spending would result in the production of P45.8 billion worth of goods and services.

On the other hand, increasing public spending by P20 billion would translate to P44.4 billion in additional output, it said.

The DOF wants Congress to pass the pending measures that would help raise revenues such as the rationalization of fiscal incentives, simplification of excise tax structure for self-employed and professionals, and simplification of the excise tax structure for tobacco and alcohol products.

Finance officials argue that increasing spending on critical infrastructure and social services was more helpful to the economy than tax relief which results in lower government revenues—both of which put upward pressure on the budget deficit.

The government's touted P330-billion economic stimulus package for 2009 to 2010, or P180 billion in tax cuts—P30 billion in reduced minimum corporate income tax and P30 billion in exemptions for minimum wage earners from the income tax as well as increased tax deductions for other employees.

"While cushioning the impact of the global financial crisis on the domestic economy, the government is faced as well with the immediate task of improving our tax effort and sustaining the reduction in our debt burden," said Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves.

Teves said managing the deficit was becoming more crucial as the government needs to cut its debt by half and raise its revenue effort by a quarter to bring its fiscal position in the required coverage.

Teves said that as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), the Philippines' debt stood at 54.3 percent as of end-2008, much higher than the 38.6 percent average of peer countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

GDP refers to the total market value of goods and services produced and rendered in the country within a given period.

The debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to ease to 53.7 percent in 2009 and improve further to 53.4 percent in 2010.

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Atienza dares Lim: Veto oil depot measure

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY AND FORMER Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday challenged current Mayor Alfredo Lim to veto City Ordinance No. 7777, which would pave the way for the continued stay in the city of oil depots and other major industries.

For her part, Councilor Ma. Lourdes Isip-Guerrero threatened to file charges against Lim should he decide to sign the controversial measure.

Lim has yet to sign the proposed ordinance, which creates zones for medium- and heavy-industries in Manila, into law.

Lim said he had not yet made up his mind on the issue although he said that health and public safety would be his primary considerations vis-a-vis the fate of the city's major industries.

"Now is the time for Mayor Lim to show genuine concern for Manileños after residents and other affected sectors expressed their overwhelming opposition of the local legislature which welcomes what [the majority councilors] termed as the 'most polluting and extremely hazardous' industries in the capital city, Atienza said in a statement.

Atienza also admonished Vice Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso and the city's majority councilors for "railroading" Ordinance 7777, saying there were "highly irresponsible."

"The new ordinance will definitely put Manileños at great risk, and at the same time negate efforts of the national government to rehabilitate the country's important water facilities, including the Pasig River," the former mayor added.

"I'm seriously contemplating charging him [Lim] if he signs it," Garcia told the Inquirer. "I'm still analyzing it, but he could be charged with grave abuse of discretion because he's signing an illegal ordinance." Time 11, Santos

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2 Pinoys still under A(H1N1) watch; no new cases reported

By Dona Pazolugon

TWO FILIPINOS WHO RECENTLY arrived from countries affected by the Influenza A(H1N1) virus are still being evaluated by the Department of Health (DOH) for the deadly flu strain.

The DOH said the total number of suspected cases of swine flu in the country reached 37 from May 1 to 14, with 33 testing negative for the virus.

The test results for the two Filipinos are pending.

A 36-year-old woman who arrived from the United Kingdom on May 9 is under observation in an undisclosed private hospital, while an 88-year-old woman who arrived from South Korea on May 13 was taken to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM).

As of May 15, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Belgium had reported a confirmed case of influenza H1N1, making 34 countries now affected by the new influenza strain.

Japan, India and Turkey yesterday reported their first respective cases of swine flu. (See related story in The World, Page A18)

The WHO said the total number of cases jumped to 7,520 on Friday from 6,497 the previous day, with no new deaths. The number of deaths stands at 85.

"While the Philippines is still free from Influenza A(H1N1), the DOH reiterates that it will continue to normally to surveillance at airports and the community so that cases of influenza are detected early and appropriate control measures implemented immediately," the DOH said.

Thailand was the first country in Southeast Asia to report the first confirmed case of swine flu. It now has two confirmed cases.

On Friday, Malaysia became the second country in the region to let his catch one confirmed case. One Saturday, it confirmed a second case.

Malaysia's first (H1N1) patient was a 21-year-old male student who returned from the United States three days ago, said its health ministry.

He arrived in Kuala Lumpur in the morning on a Malaysia Airlines flight from Newark, New Jersey. The next day he came down with a fever, sore throat and body aches, and was quarantined in a hospital.

Malaysia confirmed its second case of swine flu on Saturday in a woman who returned from the US on the same flight as the 21-year-old male.

The woman, who a student, arrived Wednesday and was hospitalized Friday in northern Penang state. Tests confirmed early Saturday that she was infected with the swine flu virus.

The woman was a friend of the 21-year-old man who was also infected with the virus, and they were on the same flight. Both are now in stable condition.

Malaysian authorities are tracking the other 119 passengers and crew who were on the same flight with the two patients.

Indonesia said Friday it was treating a woman suspected of having the H1N1 virus.

The 31-year-old was admitted to a hospital in Bandung on Thursday morning complaining of flu-like symptoms, although they have since subsided, health officials said. *With a report from The Straits Times/Asia News Network, AP*

GMA declares May nat'l hypertension month

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF Hypertension (PSH), together with the Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Heart Associates (PHA), Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN) and Kiwanis Healthcare Philippines, will lead today's celebration of World Hypertension Day in the country to raise awareness to the link between dietary salt intake and high blood pressure and its complications.

And to stress the importance of blood pressure awareness, President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared the month of May National Hypertension Awareness Month.

"Recognizing the heavy burden of hypertension or high blood pressure, President Arroyo has signed Proclamation No. 1761 declaring May of each year National Hypertension Awareness Month," said PSH president Dr. Abelian Aquino.

The proclamation enjoins all government and nongovernmental agencies, such as the DOH and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, to work with the PSH in advocating and implementing activities to prevent and control hypertension and its complications.

Excessive salt intake raises blood pressure, which is the No. 1 risk factor for cardiovascular disease, the top cause of death worldwide. Reducing daily salt intake by half could save approximately 2.5 million people a year dying from strokes and heart attacks worldwide, Navarro said in a statement.

In support of World Hypertension Day and its theme of "Salt and High Blood Pressure: The Silent Killer," the PSH, PHA, PSN and DOH in collaboration with Sweetnz have launched a low-salt recipe contest.

"The contest aims to increase public awareness of how everyday Filipino dishes could be made delectable and healthy with the minimal use of salt," said Christine F. Lim-ang, corporate affairs and market access director of Sweetnz.

"The evidence that links salt to blood pressure is so strong as that linking cigarette smoking to cancer, heart and kidney disease," said Dr. Lyras Gomez, former PSN president.

In many countries, the daily salt intake is around 12 grams—more than twice the amount considered necessary by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Research has shown that, in addition to restricting salt intake, changing one's lifestyle to include regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight and eating healthy food can contribute to preventing high blood pressure and reducing cardiovascular risk, Sweetnz said.

More information on the celebration of World Hypertension Day and the recipe contest may be found at www.sweetnz.com.ph. For inquiries, call the PSH hotline at 8317970.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 17, 2009
6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 15:23-28, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter was about to enter, Cornelius went to him, fell on his feet and bowed low. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up. For I too am a human being."

Then Peter spoke to them, "Truly, I realize that God does not show favoritism, but in all nations he fancies to everyone who does right and does good."

Peter was still speaking when the Holy Spirit came upon all who listened to the Word. And the believers of Jewish origin who had come with Peter were amazed. "What! God gives and pours the Holy Spirit on the pagans also?" For indeed this happened: they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter declared, "Can we refuse to baptize with water these people who have received the Holy Spirit, just as we have?" He further then baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. After that they asked him to remain with them for some days.

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

My dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Those who do not love have not known God, for God is love.

How did the love of God appear among us? God sent his only-love into this world that we might have life through him.

This is love: not that we loved God but that he first loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends, and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

"I shall not call you servants any more, because servants do not know what their master is doing; instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

"You did not choose me, it was I who chose you and send you out to bear fruit, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

"This is my command, that you love one another."

Commentary:

In our modern world "love" is a word that is cheapened by its overuse. In modern parlance "love" can mean just about anything we want it to mean, including actions that are cloaked in selfishness and hedonism.

In the Gospel, the meaning of the word "love" is stated clear, for Jesus Himself defines the term by identifying His entire act upon the cross, dying to self so that we might live forever. Jesus gives us His great love, the greatest love the world has ever known, and He gives us this love as sacrament. As we accept the gift of mercy from the love of Jesus, as we are so called to share His love generously with others, by so doing, we bear in abundance the fruit of charity and mercy, bringing into other people's lives the gratuitous treasures of faith, hope and love.

In the Kingdom of God, "love" is a word whose meaning is unambiguous.

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ENDS THE KILLING OF A LEAF Erlinda Cadapan and Connie Empeño, mothers of missing UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño, are among the relatives of desaparecidos and the victims of extrajudicial killings who gather at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City. The murderers were allegedly abetted by the military in 1986.

Puno: Oligarchs still rule RP

From page A1

preparing to run in the 2010 elections.

He said, however, that it might coalesce with other movements that had similar objectives.

Corruption in gov't

Puno said the chief problem of the country should "till the government of corruption and address the problem of poverty."

"The middle class should be strengthened because it is "the backbone of democracy," he said.

If not, he said, "we will have a synthetic democracy."

While government officials should move the country forward, the Filipino people should help strengthen the moral fiber that would uplift the country, the Chief Justice said.

He called on government employees to exercise autonomy and not surrender their freedom of decision to the dictates of the oligarchs.

"Otherwise, we will have a few oligarchs running the country, [with] so many impoverished," he said.

Humble contribution

Puno said the World Face Movement was "our humble contribution in the need for change or transformation to our people and our country."

He said another way for the country to change was for Filipinos to revisit both its hallowed customs and traditions, such as "hospitality and the bayanihan (cooperative) spirit."

Asked to comment on continuing efforts to have him run for president, Puno gave his usual reply that the decision lay with his grandchildren.

"They should know that I have a fourth grandchild. They have custody with the grandchild," he said. With a report from Abbie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

KC reads their own story to 'children of war'

From page A1

participated in the Inscore Read-Along session last Thursday with KC, a designated ambassador of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). It was the fourth Read-Along session to be held in Mindanao, and the second this year.

'Bakwit'

Of the 30 children, at least 20 were "bakwit," or war evacuees. They were among those who fled as the school after fighting broke out between government troops and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front following the aborted signing of the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA-AD).

The school, which is also a focus area of the WFP's food for education program, is only about an hour away from Datu Piang, Maguindanao, the scene of a recent scene struck launched by the military against the rebels.

KC read the award-winning "Magsabar Ako Kapag May Bagyo" (She Makes Me Sad), written by litury Aun Orthostic-Warnes. It is a book by Elizabeth Alcantara. It tells the story of a girl whose painful experience of war stays on in her memories of losing a doll, a friend losing a leg, surviving on sardines and noodles and sleeping on concrete floors.

Fear of gunfire

The children who joined in the Read-Along session had experienced much the same thing and were eager to participate in the discussion that followed the reading.

"When do you feel afraid when there is war?" KC asked them, to which they answered, "fear" and "sadness."

"When do you feel afraid when you hear gunfire?"

All 30 raised their hands.

To which KC said, "But you sure you did not write this, it sounds like you all wrote this."

Grade 2 pupil Ibrahim "Pensaring" Abdulaim, 11, a former resident of Mcin Kampo in barangay Sambulawan, admitted to having mixed feelings after hearing the story.

Losing sense of time

"I am happy now but there are still soldiers in our house even if there is no more war," Ibrahim said. When the fighting broke out in his village, his family fled, practically with only their clothes on their back.

He said he missed his home in Shiu Kimpo.

The boy appears to have lost much of the length of time he has spent in the school as an evacuee as he said the lessons that his family had settled there only three months ago. Actually, his family was among those which arrived in the school in August 2008.

And just like the girl in the story, the boy said: "It's really sad when there is war. When there is no fighting, we're happy. We play all the time. Of course we also play now but we're always afraid. I hope we don't have to see evacuees anymore. I hope we can return to Kuya Dano and be one room away. But we're afraid to go home because there are soldiers there."

Elementary teacher Shelly Cabalbero said the session was really helpful for the children as it allowed them to find how important they are. The discussion that followed, she said, helped in giving guidance to the children, after suffering from the effects of armed conflicts, still surely help them to cope with that, she said.

"These children are usually shy. They almost never interact even with each other. They do not even want to go near strangers. We are thankful that session like this are being brought to areas such as Sambulawan," Cabalbero said.

The session, Amalia Abdul, who acted as sing before the session started, almost broke to tears.

Therapeutic

"The girl is good to share. But since she is asked to recite or sing in front of the class, she would subsequently. Obviously it's one of the effects of war. She is also a bakwit," Cabalbero said.

Last week, the teacher asked the children what they wanted seen that the armed fighting has stopped. They said "they wanted to go home ... simple."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who heeded the WFP's school feeding programs from his pork barrel and accompanied his wife-daughter, IC, to Sambulawan, said the session was "therapeutic" for the children.

"Most of them are unable to express themselves and through the session, it was clear that they were able to interact and eventually express what they have been holding on for a long time. Somehow, it helped them cope with the difficulties that they have experienced and the abnormal condition that they were in," Pangilinan said.

HOT & HOME SET FOARS Actress KC, supervisor Sen. Kiko Pangilinan and Sr.Jolen Andrews, the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) country director, visit its warehouse in Maguindanao. Pangilinan has appropriated P1 million from his Priority Development Assistance Fund in the DSWD to support school feeding activities conducted by the government-run alis the WFP.

KC said she was surprised and impressed by the response that she got from the children. It helped that the children were able to connect with the main character in the story, she said.

Story comes to life

"It was important that they felt and realized that it was their very story that was being read to them. The voice was theirs. The suffering was theirs. The story came to life because of them. And I turned this voice and saw their suffering," she said.

She said the session was also a learning experience for her.

"These children really need help. They must go to school but many factors are affecting that, including the armed conflict and the lack of food," she said.

Jeepney the street mag; buy it to help the homeless, jobless

From page A1

for them a living wage.

Published by the Urban Opportunities for Change Foundation, Jeepney is the country's first "street paper," and is part of a global movement to end poverty through the development of independent publications that provide unique employment opportunities and social programs for the poor and the homeless.

The first street paper was developed in New York in 1989, and the idea was to print a newspaper and employ homeless people to sell it on the streets for a percentage of the cover price. There are now more than 200 street papers being sold in 40 countries.

Lives of the poor

"Jeepney has one main goal: To create and provide jobs for the homeless people that none can succeed the minimum wage. To do that is just by promoting the lives of the poor through professional images and journalism," said Bill Shaw, the American co-founder of the Urban Opportunities for Change Foundation.

Jeepney is a glossy that comes out six times a year and is sold through a network of vendors around shopping malls and campuses in Metro Manila.

To qualify to be a vendor of Jeepney, one must be mainly a street dweller or homeless person 16 years old and over, and must register for the minimum wage.

Start-up capital

Each vendor is given a "starter-up capital" consisting of 30 magazines to sell. Each copy sells for P100, which is split equally between the vendor and the magazine, whose share covers the cost of production and training.

Once they sell off their initial 30 copies of the magazine, the vendor has the option to buy the next 30 copies for half the cover price, or P50.

The goal is to sell 10 magazines a day which, if reached, will enable the vendor to earn an income exceeding the minimum wage by 40 percent, said Shaw.

Target audience

According to Shaw, the magazine is currently selling 3,000 copies every two issues, with a staff of five full-time vendors.

In the Eastwood City alone, vendors sold 3000 magazines in 10 days, which means that each had an income of P1,200 a day.

The magazine's target readership are people who desire to help improve the lives of the poor and can do so by buying a street paper or magazine.

"Once people understand that the magazine is a social enterprise for the poor, it sells itself. Although some buy it because they like the magazine, a majority buy it when they understand that doing so provides a job," said Shaw.

"Buying a street paper does much more than contribute to the vendor's chance of escaping poverty. You are helping finance a support system for many more excluded people, something that giving quiet change to a beggar simply does not do," according to the International Network of Street Papers (INSP) website.

Each issue of Jeepney covers around a theme. In June 2008, it was on topics like sex, shelter, jobs, the Homeless Pinoy Cup and the dreams of the poor.

Lifestyle section

It covers lifestyle concerns just like a regular magazine, with sections like the Celebrity Interviews, Arts, Musings and Meditation, Travel and Food, but there is a twist to the way to create these topics.

For instance, in the most recent issue, a fashion piece called "Changing Outlooks" features street smart models wearing "ukay-ukay" (second-hand clothes).

In the "Backward" section, a homeless man shares his life story, and what he can do to help him get back on his feet.

The magazine is produced by a core of volunteer and paid professional staff.

Best interview award

Jeepney Magazine was selected earlier this month as one of five finalists during the 09-APA 16th annual conference in Bangsa, Norway. Jeepney was nominated in the Best Interview and Best Design awards.

Jeepney is currently being sold in malls like Glorietta 2, Galleria and Eastwood and in school campuses in Investcom and the University of the Philippines in Quezon City—institutions that have partnered with Jeepney to support its intervention by recognized parents-educators solution.

The challenges of selling street magazines are different in each country. Whereas in Europe, it's hard to find homeless people desperate enough to sell the issues, in the Philippines, it has been difficult to find legal and safe locations where their target readers are.

Ideal location

"The ideal locations are any where where are mostly commuters individuals who can spare P100 every two months," said Shaw.

He said the Foundation has had in turn many vendors because there were not enough places for them to sell.

But his research conclusion that through "word of mouth" and the magazine's reach record, they will be able to build the right relationships with businesses and the government agencies that will provide more selling locations.

The magazine also offers training for vendors to learn the basic skills of entrepreneurship. They are taught to develop the confidence to approach people, to communicate simply and clearly, to set sales goals, and to understand the success of the magazine. They also learn the importance of body language, how to handle feelings of rejection, and are taught that "no" is not a personal attack.

Beauty of Filipinos

A full-time social worker is also around to help them work through any personal or job issues that come up.

"The beauty of the Filipino people is everyone is socially conscious. Everyone is willing to help out. The most beautiful is street people is—that it provides solutions for those who have none," said Shaw.

GLOSSY comes out six times a year, each issue centers on a theme. It is sold through a network of vendors around shopping malls and campuses in Metro Manila.

President GMA signs amended deposit insurance law

Deposit Insurance doubles to P500,000; PDIC granted additional powers

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on April 20 signed Republic Act No. 9576, the law that doubled the maximum deposit insurance coverage (MDIC) to P500,000 and granted the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) institutional and financial strengthening measures to support the MDIC increase.

"*The increase in the maximum deposit insurance coverage from P250,000 to P500,000 is a means to encourage our depositors to remain confident in our banking system,*" PDIC President Jose C. Nograles said.

The increase in the insurance coverage of deposits is also intended as a pre-emptive and precautionary measure should Philippine based banks be adversely affected by the ongoing global financial turmoil. At this level of coverage, full protection will be extended to 97.2% of all deposit accounts in the country. In addition, the increase now guarantees 31.7% of total amounts of deposits in the banking system, up from 24% under the previous level of P250,000.

RA 9576 also provided for the strengthening of PDIC institutionally and financially. Among the institutional strengthening measures granted to PDIC are the authority to determine insured deposits, conduct special bank examinations, and examine deposit accounts of ailing banks; and immunity from suits.

Nograles said that the additional powers granted to PDIC will promote the government's campaign against unsafe and unsound banking practices that tend to abuse the protection provided by the government. The institutional strengthening measures will likewise enable PDIC to safeguard the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF), which is the source of insurance payments.

These authorities were complemented by financial strengthening measures to preserve and protect the DIF such as the grant of tax-exempt status to PDIC and sovereign guarantee on PDIC's borrowings not to exceed twice the amount of the DIF as of date of debt issuance. For the first five years, PDIC's tax obligations will be charged against the Tax Expenditure Fund. Starting on the sixth year, PDIC will be exempt from income tax, final withholding tax, VAT on assessments collections as well as local taxes. The tax exempt status and sovereign guarantee on borrowings are consistent with practice in other deposit insurance systems. The new law ensures that PDIC will have the financial capacity to cover the risks posed by threats of insurance calls.

"*The signing of the amended PDIC Charter signifies the government's commitment to enhance the stability of the banking and financial systems amidst an unprecedented global financial crisis. It reinforces PDIC's role as a vital part of the financial safety net,*" Nograles said.

He expressed gratitude to the support of the Senate and the House of Representatives to strengthen PDIC through the passage of RA 9576. Nograles likewise expressed optimism over the continued stability of the financial system with the increase in MDIC and adoption of strengthening initiatives. RA 9576 will be effective 15 days after its publication in a newspaper of major circulation.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9576, amending the PDIC Charter on April 21, 2009. Present at the signing were Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile (fifth from right) and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) President Jose C. Nograles (extreme left). Standing from left to right are Rep. Victoria Sy-Alvarado, Rep. Dante Guanio, Rep. Arthur Defensor, Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson, Deputy Speaker Arnolfo Villarosa, Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Rep. Jaime Lopez, Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Rep. Joseph Violago, Rep. Leonilo Chavez and Rep. Antonio Nocas

S. No. 2966
H. No. 5911

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Fourteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, two thousand eight.

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9576

AN ACT INCREASING THE MAXIMUM DEPOSIT INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, TO CREDITWORTHY MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (PDIC), AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PDIC CHARTER, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy and Objectives. – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to strengthen the depository deposit insurance coverage system in order to promote and maintain the stability and viability of the country's banking system, and protect riches illegal practices and misconduct.

To carry this out, the government insures deposits of banks and quasi-banks (collectively, for the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation or the PDIC (PDIC) as they are commonly referred to) and strengthens the mandate of the deposit insurance agency to effectively promote and sustain a healthy banking system and to engage in all contemplated functions, and in helping develop a sound and viable financial system in the country.

SEC. 2. Section 3(f) of Republic Act No. 3591, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(f) The term 'deposit' means the unpaid balance of money or its equivalent received or held by a bank or quasi-bank in the usual course of business and for the account of a person, firm, corporation or any other juridical entity, which is not subject to set-off or any counterclaim, and which is evidenced by a certificate of deposit, or a bank, credit, passbook, credit memorandum, checking, savings, and time deposit, or transaction account, or deposit substitute, or other similar arrangement, the Board of Directors shall determine and prescribe by regulation or by resolution, as the case may be, the form of the deposit, and the terms and conditions subject to which it is received, held or withdrawn: *Provided*, That the Board may, after a public hearing for the purpose, and upon the recommendation of the Monetary Board, limit any deposit which it may consider to be unreasonably large, or which is made for the purpose of taking advantage of the deposit insurance coverage: *Provided, further*, That the Board may, upon the recommendation of the Monetary Board, exclude any deposit which is made in the normal course of business and which is incidental to such business, such as deposits arising out of the purchase and sale of real estate, or the personal property pertaining thereto, or deposits made by any debtor for the purpose of discharging, in whole or in part, any indebtedness, loan or mortgage: *Provided, finally

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OPINION

The fugitive

NANCY GADIAN, FROM WHAT THE PUBLIC'S BEEN told, resigned her commission as a Navy lieutenant on May 1. But the Armed Forces of the Philippines considers her as having gone AWOL since April 22, when she failed to return to duty after having gone on leave. As with any government job, separation from the service isn't fully accomplished until the whole rigamarole of clearances has been complied with; and there is the ordained but relevant question of Gadian not having reported for duty when required.

EDITORIAL

As a result, military authorities have ordered her apprehension, and she has become a fugitive. The whole caseas for Gadian's going to ground is, of course, that she has become a whistle blower in a case involving the alleged misuse of some P40 million in funds earmarked for the Balikatan exercises. While the amount may be peanuts—from the perspective of our lavish civilian officials, anyway—the allegations are bound to spark the interest of the AFP's paramount bankroller, the United States. As anyone who has by now become familiar with Mrg. Gen. Carlos Garcia's case, Uncle Sam is rather zealous about ridding corruption concerning its military assistance. What more when it comes to expenses related to Balikatan exercises.

The AFP insists it wants Gadian apprehended on purely disciplinary grounds—for a breach of military disciplinefine this is a case of the left hand feigning ignorance of what the right hand is doing. The Navy's Efficiency and Separation Board (ESB) has an ongoing investigation of Gadian for unauthorizations and accusations of lavish spending. By the military's own admissions, the heir they can't point out does not have criminal profit but doesn't deny that the P2.3 million released to her in connection with her Balikatan assignment is missing. She has failed to account for P2,500 in hotel expenses. Again, as regular—and liable—reports by the Commission on Audit point out, civilian officialdom, particularly in the executive department, has failed to account for far larger sums without any hindrance to their careers or political prospects.

The military says there is no "cover-up"; yet Gadian says she is fearful for her own and her family's safety. There is a standoff, with the commander in chief and defense secretary vowing investigations into leads the military insists are all accounted for. We have all been down this stripped path before, and we have all seen the fate of past whistle-blowers, too. What makes this difference is the looming shadow of American interest in this matter, and that is the only shadow that will serve to quash our sky boats.

Civilians and the military alike know that, in the course of concerned individuals coming forward with incriminating information on the high-ranking and powerful, there is an institutional bias against whistle-blowers. Stacking the boss is something that sends the entire machinery of government into furious battle stations, and no military citizen can muster the manias and resources to withstand the official counter-offensive that ensues. There is nothing more obnoxious to officialdom than one of their own—or worse, a subordinate—squealing on their peers or higher-ups.

And yet from the point of view of the public interest, there is nothing better for good government than, in the very least, some of the cynics coming forward to become most pigeons, whether to calculate their jail time or to escape it altogether, exchanging incriminating knowledge for leniency. At best, a government worker coming forward to expose official corruption is an act of conspicuous heroism. In either case, governments that value the principles of integrity and accountability make sure there are means to protect whistle-blowers while scrutinizing their allegations. There are no such provisions, to fact, though there may be some slender ones in law.

Gadian knows full well that she will find few people in the bureaucracy interested in a squaring of accounts; and as a single watcher, she knows she and her children will be very vulnerable to official pressure. So what is left for her to do? Seek asylum in the US Embassy? But that would put her in the position of seemingly holding the Americans in higher regard than her own country; while running the risk of rejection. She could appeal to Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro or personally assure her of his protection: but would it be something he'd be willing to risk?

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The deterioration of elections in the Philippines

SEPARATE OPINION

DAHLIAH A. CRUZ

AS OF NOW, THERE ARE REPORTEDLY AS many as 17 persons who are running for president of the Philippines on May 10, 2010. They include the fairly responsible, the unreasonably hopeful, and the total crackpots. Given the number of political parties under the present setup, the party for representation combating the status, and the newly accepted-done practices of the current administration. The winner is anybody's guess. He could be one of the crackpots.

Under the Commonwealth Constitution, the two-party system made the elections mainly between the major political parties, with the other participants as merely fillers. The Nacionalista Party dominated the polls against minor opponents like the Democratic Party under Teodoro Sandiko, Pedro Sabido, and Claro M. Recto, and the Popular Front under Juan Sumulong. None of these competed against the mighty tandem of Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmeña.

In the first presidential election in 1935, Quezon handily won against Emilio Aguinaldo, the old warrior. Osmeña, running for vice president against Benigno S. Aquino, obtained the most votes among all the candidates, including Quezon.

In 1940, Quezon and Osmeña running for re-election under the amended 1935 Constitution, easily trounced Sumulong, who had declared opposition to the extension of the Supreme Court. The gallant leader of the opposition chose instead to face and lose to the two nationalist leaders of the party in power.

Returning to the Philippines with Douglas MacArthur and the US forces in 1944, now President Osmeña heard a proclamation by Quezon that he would not be a candidate for reelection and that the Nacionalista Party would be dissolved. Osmeña organized a provisional government under the Commonwealth Constitution, and Quezon resigned from the presidency in 1944. The winner-take-all elections chose to attend to his duties in transcending himself of campaigning against himself in Japan, who eventually became the first president of the Philippines in 1945. He passed away in office, however, in 1948.

Elpidio Quirino, as forces' successor, ran in the presidential election of 1949. He abruptly went against the popular Jose P. Laurel, whose many regarded as the real victor despite the fraudulent returns of the locks and the boxes in Laurel that had changed the election results.

Laurel's got his revenge when he sponsored, with the other leaders of the Nacionalista Party, the election of Ramon Magsaysay in 1953. The unduly admired Guy rised to a plane trash in 1957 but was succeeded by his vice president, Carlos P. Garcia. Also a Nacionalista, he won elections in the top office the same year against Jose Yulo of the Liberal Party.

Things changed when Diosdado Macapagal, then vice president under Garcia's party, ran and won him in the presidential election of 1961. Against el Laurel, "the best president we never had," was his campaign manager but could have been his challenger in the next election had not his death intervened.

Ferdinand Marcos reversed everything when he became president over Macapagal in 1965, was re-elected in 1969 against Sergio Osmeña Jr., declared martial law in 1972, and replaced the Nacionalista and Liberal parties with his Kilusang Bagong Lipunan in 1978. This was the political party that proclaimed his election against Corazon Aquino in 1985 that was annulled by Edsa I in 1986.

The elections that followed have been held under the provisions of the present Constitution, with rather questionable results.

Following the expiration of President Aquino's term in 1992, presidential elections for her successor were held, but according to a new system. No one topped by the 1987 Charter, several political parties participated, with some of them claiming superiority over the others as the Nacionalista and Liberal parties before had dragged it one to equal rivals.

When the eight candidates interested, it appeared that Miriam Defensor-Santiago had won, making her rush to Jaime Cardinal Sin for his blessings, she topped to-soon. Report from the South showed that Ilded V. Ramos had outrated her and the other presidential candidates, namely, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Ramon Mitra, Imelda Marcos, Jovito Salonga, and Salvador Laurel.

The presidential elections of 1998 were practically over even before they actually started. Joseph Estrada was wowing the crowds with his charismatic appeal. He wisely avoided the debates among other candidates, who, before de Venecia, Raul Roco, Leo Osmeña, Alfredo Lim, Renato de Villa, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Imelda Marcos, Santiago Dumlao, and Manuel Morato. Sen Estrada's campaign was really limited him, but it was long this manner preferred.

In 2001, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over Estrada's term. She vowed she would not run in 2004 but later did. She defeated her closest opponent by protest was Fernando Poe, largely through the dubious maneuverings of a certain but identifiable Garci. The other threatened candidates were Panfilo Lacson, Raul Roco, and Eduardo Villanueva.

So that's it. Those elections could return to the former one-on-one contests between the champions of only two political parties that could win a clear and categorical majority from the electorate. It's possible that the next confrontation could be between the likes of Nick de Castro and Manny Pacquiao, both multiple palindromes, in close bumbling statements. But that's a risk we have to take.

Abide

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A YOUNG MOM-an who excitedly learned to her friend about her first date, namely saying: "I was so impressed. I think he loves me! He brought me to dine in this big restaurant with so many choices of food!" When asked what she ordered for the restaurant was, her response was: "Food's cost!"

* * *

Often, we think we know what love is, but in fact, today's Gospel (Jn. 13, 9-17) the Lord tells us that we have to learn to love in a much greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." We go through many levels of loving, but the bottom line of love is sacrifice, i.e., dying to oneself, and in some cases, literally dying for others.

* * *

I am writing this column in the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal where the Blessed Mother is ordered her son's message that we love one another, and found her name of the wonderful "hands was and love." At the side entrance of the shrine is displayed a piece of the Berlin Wall, a testament that indeed, a lot of things can be achieved by prayer and penance, if only we have gone on. There are still a lot of walls between us and among us that need dismantling, and a lot of prisons within us that need breaking.

* * *

I have done a lot of pilgrimages, and more and more, I see pilgrimage not so much as a journey to pilgrimage sites, but a journey into God's heart. For indeed, one can go to all the holy places and be guarding all sorts of religious experiences, but if there is no real conversion and no moving on, then it's all talk and decoration. Don't get me wrong. Pilgrimages are a big help to conversion, and I have seen a lot of pilgrims change and become more persons, but the journey to God's heart can begin anywhere, anytime, as long as a heart is open.

* * *

The journey to God's heart begins with humility. As the anniversary in Fatima, on the eve of the anniversary of Mother Mary's first apparition in Fatima, Portugal, a vast sea of humanity right to see an ocean of lighted candles from people all over the world, bearing the rain and the cold, each one begging the Lord for mercy, and yet, asking for forgiveness, favor or help. Yes, the journey to God's heart begins when in all humility one says "I need you. I cannot do it alone. Lord please help me."

* * *

It is amazing that in that crowd of about 100,000 one felt that one was not alone, and that one was loved. I felt the personal love of the Lord and the blessed Mother, assuring me that I was understood, appreciated, and forgiven. God's heart is so big, and there is plenty of room for everyone, anyone.

* * *

If you look at the image of Our Lady of Fatima, you would notice that her head is tilted to the left, toward her heart, signifying that she is listening to all who come to her heart. That makes her right on virtual upwards, right? Yes, that she is also listening to God. Mother Mary shows us that true loving is listening with one's heart. Without prayer we cannot truly love; and without love, we cannot truly pray.

* * *

Whenever I travel abroad, I can't help but sigh in prayer whenever I remember our country, the Philippines. I am filled with mixed feelings when I think of our present situation: sadness for the sufferings of our people; frustration at the inability of our politicians and government leaders; admiration for the courage and faith of our simple people; and optimism that in spite of all that we are going through, there is reason, there is meaning, and there is hope. We must believe, and keep on believing that God loves our country, and that He has a beautiful plan for us. Presumptuous? It is better to be presumptuous of God's love.

* * *

Speaking of Fatima, Fatima Soriano, the blind girl who has touched so many people with her inspiring courage and joyful faith is back in the Philippines. When I asked her how she was taking her return to our country after a year in the United States, her simple reply was: "Figure may plano si Lord, at may tiwala ya ako dito at Filipinas (Maybe the Lord has a plan, and I still have a mission here in the Philippines)." Come to think of it, a lot of our problems would be lighter if we were more trusting and more submissive to God's will. "Ganyan na nga kasi love." That is either the Lord or Fatima.

* * *

When I asked Fatima Soriano what she missed most about the Philippines when she was abroad, her answer was the simplicity and the joy and humor of the Pinoys. In America, people worked and just vanished, and the few times they got together, all they talked about was money and material things. Even the laughter over there was different, she said. Indeed, it is good enough to live somewhere, but love, but significant lives. Life is not so much about riches and comfort, but about meaning and hearing fruits.

* * *

Remaining in God's love means persevering all the way end. He does who may feel tired, broken or disillusioned about living and loving us, please don't let go of those three buts we have to belong to, namely to give God the glory; in taking for others God's grace and beauty to ask God's forgiveness and mercy, in the end, what matters most is that we did abide in His love. Let us all pray that in God's mercy He will give us the perseverance.

* * *

PHILIPPINE SVD CENTENNIAL MOMENT: Since 1972, Fr. Leo Schmitt, SVD started some kind of a "General Kalinga" project by helping the poor in the Philippines. He built homes in affordable housing projects in Sampaloc, Rizal. Through the encouragement of the Sinabaug Bagong Buhay, and with funding from Missereor Germany and help from friends, Fr. Leo provided 1,000 housing units for the poor but the created communities living together in faith and love. Because he continued and continues to remain in God's love, this SVD missionary has become many Tesis' mothers: San Antonio Village, Fr. Jose Brosmann Subdivision, Simeon, San Agustin Village, and innumerable, to name some, not to mention the many lives and hearts he has touched.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, help me to abide by your commands and to abide in your love. Amen.

Tycoon and philanthropist

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

IN A CAPITALIST DEMOCRACY SUCH AS THE Philippines, private enterprise is both the engine of economic growth and the propellant of social responsibility. Hence, I measure the success of a business conglomerate not so much by the profits it takes but by its ethic in caring for the less fortunate. Indeed, fabulous wealth can be justified only by the use to which it is put to help the poor.

Passing for philanthropy. This is why I enjoyed so far the guest speaker during the "13th Presentation of SM Scholar Graduates" held on May 11 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. I am not at all unaware of the biggest scandals that rocked our economy and income tycoon Henry Sy still does social responsibility.

I was not disappointed. The presentation was considered a major milestone by tycoon Henry Sy, by despite his oft-cited "Praying" by his friends), his wife Felicidad, his children led by BDO Chair Tessie, and the top executives of the SM Group. They celebrated the event as significantly as their annual shareholders' meeting.

For four hours, they listened with rapt attention to a renewed learning experience (and their own) by the tycoon who started how from a tiny store for just just hundred by the SM Foundation from their first year in college up to their graduation. At the sidelines of the huge convention hall, personnel managers of the 100 companies set up booths to offer scholarships to the graduates.

The Foundation, proudly described by Tessie as the "heart and soul of SM," undertakes multifaceted programs in educational, health and medical projects as well as livelihood and self-employment projects. Here, it considers the scholarship program as the crown jewel. Currently, it has 7,917 beneficiaries. 869 of whom graduated this school year while the rest are still enrolled in 29 institutions nationwide. This year's batch includes five magna cum laudes and 20 cum laudes. In fact, 1,176 have grad. rated under the scholarship program.

Winning in business. In my address, I recalled that as a student in the 1950s, I met Tessie when I bought my shoes at the original Shoemart store in Carriedo Street in Manila at, believe it or not, P3.6 a pair. Since then, I marveled at how that store metamorphosed to SM and expanded so rapidly. Three of the world's largest malls are located (not necessarily SM malls) at once, SM Mega Mall and SM City North Edsa. SM generates now nearly P130 billion in revenues, employs over 75,000 and operates 100 stores.

SM has focused in other fields that always accomplished kindred with core similar, patronized by Tessie's "internal philosophy of "Synergy." Tessie seeks to his core business and area of expertise, the business empire may soon diversified but it is really interconnected—retail, tourism and entertainment, shopping centers, real estate and investments and banking.

Winning in personal life. Though highly successful in all his ventures, Tessie remains humble, self-effacing and low profile. He seldom makes public appearances. He treasures, if I may quote him, "my six children who are my truest assets and friends in the office and in life." Indeed, most especially my wife of (over) 50 years, Holly, who is my lifetime companion, treasures, advises and best friend."

He also professes deep faith in God, who according to him, "is good and generous with His gifts to us." That is why in the creation of his major projects is always a house of the Lord. In the beauty of setting and dining at the SM Megamall, shoppers can still find peace and tranquility in the Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord inside that huge shopping center. Soon before he built his Mall of Asia and SMX Convention Center, he first constructed the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life near there.

I describe his core profile, God-oriented, family-centered lifestyle as "balance." I prefer to call it "Oneness," a word that—in my humble opinion—reflects, yet, balance and also, harmony and understanding to personal relations.

Prophesy with God. Although Tessie has been acclaimed by many people as one of the richest men in the world, he has not forgotten his roots. He always remembers that he was once poor, that he was a simple and hard-working salesman who has been blessed abundantly.

Thus, he considers his wealth as not his; more wealth but to distribute it to the hapless and the helpless so they could have help others. He used to share his successes but thus brought him to the league of the world's mega philanthropists like Bill Gates, Henry Ford, John Rockefeller and Li Ka Shing.

Philanthropy is not just a cute duty for the endowed, it is the way to a final reunion with God. The Good Book (Matthew 25) teaches that only those who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick, are rewarded with the Eternal Kingdom. By the same token, when we finally kneel at the pearly gates, our Lord will not ask us how many digits were in our bank accounts, or how many doctoral degrees we earned, or how lofty our government positions were.

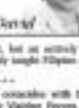
He will just ask whether we shared our resources with the poor, used our talent to defend the weak, and spent our time to help those in most need. I call this direction given by the Lord to share our blessings and gifts with the less fortunate as tessen, or "Praying" with God.

In his working way, Tessie has proven that one can be both a tycoon and a philanthropist, an entrepreneur and a Christian, a hard-knuckled trader and a softhearted humanist. May his philanthropic ardor ever increase.

* * *

Comments are welcome at thephilosophyguy@hotmail.com

What Vanessa has learned



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TOPMOST THOUGHT OF THE UNHAPPY BABE pressure in Subic and Clark, as many as 3,000 cases of rape had been filed against US servicemen, but all were dismissed, says Nimfa de Jesus, former secretary general of the women's party list group Gabriela.

Rina, when "Nicole," a college student from Zamboanga, filed rape charges against a group of US Marines she met in a club in Subic, many were skeptical of her chances to win. When Nicole won a conviction of rape against one of the Marines, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, a case considered as unprecedented victory, even if the euphoria was muted somewhat by Smith's hasty, clandestine transfer from the Makati City Jail to the grounds of the US Embassy, thanks to a ruling by the Supreme Court ordered Smith's transfer to stand trial under Philippine jurisdiction. Nicole pulled a surprise: she filed her private lawyer and issued a statement casting doubt on her own version of the events on the night the rape supposedly took place. Her lawyer, Atty. Evalyn Ursua, even went so far as to say that the Appeals court had erred in affirming Nicole for, in essence, "asking for it."

A few days ago, another young woman, who chooses to be known as "Vanessa," approached Gabriela and said the group's story needed to be told, that she had gone through the same ordeal as seventeen to a Makati hotel thinking she was joining a party, only to find out that there was no one else around. The lawyers on them raped her.

Unlike Nicole, though, who refused public contact with anyone except her lawyer, Vanessa has yet to make up her mind about filing a formal complaint, and the reason she cites is Nicole. She knows the extent of the probing done on Nicole's character, the humiliation she had to endure at the hands of the defense lawyers and the indignation of the public at some of the judgments that many, including three women justices of the Court of Appeals, made on Nicole's person simply because Nicole had been out partying and drinking, and because she had gone to the hotel room with three Filipino servants who'd then serve as US servicemen of rape would not only face an indifferent media "enabling them to anticipate the consequences of their actions and to refrain from putting themselves in compromising situations."

In other words, she asked for it. Though the evidence had failed to convince what an empowered young man, like the accused servicemen, is supposed to do, I would think he should have thought of the consequences of his own behavior, too, though perhaps he knew that, as to thousands of cases involving American servicemen around the world, his government would protect him from the legal consequences of his actions. This, even if no home ground and if he were a civilian, the rape would have resulted in his conviction, imprisonment and maybe even execution.

Sexual politics. In a recent column by Nicholas KRISTOF in The New York Times, where he pointed out that in the United States, many rape kits containing evidence gathered from women survivors aren't tested at all "because it's not deemed a priority." If the kit is tested, he adds, "the rapist can't rush a lucrative rape case that a man he's poor before there are results."

I was stunned by this because I thought that rape only a in Third World country like ours, where hundreds of rape kits are in unsettled until the outcome (as 2004 statistics dispatched) because the police aren't interested in testing such evidence.

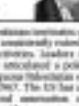
* * *

I HAD to agree with Kristof's conclusion, that **rape kits aren't handled with requisite care** and urgency because of "an underlying doubt that rape victims are really telling the truth. In short...this isn't justice, it's indifference."

Rapes before the re-classification of rape as a crime against a person and not against chastity women complained of "being raped a second time" by the process of having to relive the ordeal in the police and in their quest through the judicial process. If both years of work by women's groups to re-orient law enforcers, prosecutors and judges about the nature of rape, and yet we still see verdicts such as that on the Subic case.

And yes: wonder why Vanessa hesitates to file a formal complaint?

Netanyahu's Choice



WORLD VIEW

Danial Kurtzer

RAMALLAH...AS THE SUMMIT BETWEEN US President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approaches, most of the discussion has focused on whether or not the newly elected Israeli leader will finally say that he backs a two-state solution. This is the wrong approach. Israelis should not determine the status of the Palestinian entity; we should Palestinians have a say in what Israelis call their own state.

The only question is how. The Clinton and Bush administrations' efforts—all based on "economic peace," or ignoring that Arabs recognize the boundaries of Israel—have failed. They would not be allowed to defeat the goal of ending the intolerable occupation.

During Obama's first meeting with a Middle East leader, a simple and consequential truth must be heard. Empowered by Arab leaders, Israel's King Abdullah II will make the case for the peace plan devised by the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic States. Despite the Israeli west-to-Lebanon and Gaza, Arabs offered normal relations with Israel once it quits the lands that it occupied in 1967.

The plan addresses a "key" and "agreed upon" dimension of the Palestinian refugee problem. The fact that Israelis and Palestinians need to agree on a solution of the refugee issue nevertheless is not one of Israel's fears about the demographic threat posed by Palestinians. Israel's Arab citizens will outnumber Jews if all currently Israeli-controlled territories, including the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, were annexed to Israel. Israel's Arab citizens will outnumber Jews if all currently Israeli-controlled territories, including the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, were annexed to Israel.

Israel's actions on the ground have put countries in American and international positions. The newly established Israeli government refuses even to pay lip service to the internationally accepted requirements for peace. On the other hand, the Israeli-elected Palestinian leadership has international support and is accepted as a coalition that the Netanyahu government rejects.

Among the international community's demands of Israel has been the acceptance of the two-state solution and a total freeze on all settlement activity, including expansion and natural growth. Freezing settlements will certainly be a central theme of the robust diplomacy of Mitchell and his team. Mitchell, who was deeply involved in crafting the settlements language of the Sharm el-Sheikh Report of 2001, understands the capacity of the settlements to destroy the prospects of a two-state solution.

Jerusalem is another on the pivotal issue that will be a litmus test for the Obama administration. Israel's provocative actions in East Jerusalem and its persecution in East Jerusalem highlight the need to confront this issue without delay. The Israeli government, but an actively hostile one. Israel has certainly taught Filipino women some painful lessons.

* * *

YESTERDAY marching coincides with the upcoming review of the Visiting Forces Agreement. Guided by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, headed by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Chief of the Philippines, sponsored a bi-partisan "Rape and US Militarism" last Friday. The continuing military presence of the American forces in the country, speakers like Dr. Jovan and Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes asserted, not only will Filipino women continue to suffer violence and exploitation, but also threatened Philippine sovereignty and laws.

Evalyn Ursua, Nicole's lawyer who is now advising Vanessa, also cited how in the course of the judicial process involving Nicole's case, "the rules of criminal procedure have been relaxed and considered more collateral damage."

Ursua also pointed out how the Maggie dela Riva case, which caused constitutionalism in the late 1960s and resulted in the execution of her rapist-killer, has been relegated to the "private" type of a rape victim" that has proven difficult to overcome. Dela Riva was an actress known for her "wholesome image," and the horror of her abduction and gang rape was magnified by the "unbelievable" ordeal she had to face. The "purity" of what a believable rape consisted of was created in our consciousness: unassailable virtue on the part of the victim, the use of physical violence and threats, and heroic struggle.

* * *

THUS, in the midst of Vanessa's suffering, a seven-paper editorial chided the young women and her supporters, saying that empowering women

'Team of Rivals'

THE BOOK WHO NOT EASY TO FIND SINCE PRESIDENT Barack Obama had. It's the known that he had read it and was getting copies to his Cabinet members.

Nor it is easy to hold: its 754 pages plus notes weight here it) on the return at one reads. We the reading is extremely rewarding for the view it provides of the political and moral insights on which America's first black president has lived his own.

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll

John J. Carroll teaches in Church and bond issues

"Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," by Doris Kearns Goodwin is, cisms primarily on the dynamics within Lincoln's wartime Cabinet every member of which, unlike Goodwin, was better known, better educated, and more experienced as a public figure than Lincoln. "They were chosen and retained on the basis of their ability to do the task assigned them, not on the basis of their personal loyalty to him. Three Cabinet members had been his rivals for the presidential nomination of the Republican Party, and three belonged to the opposition Democratic Party.

Lincoln's Treasury secretary, Salmon P. Chase, had been governor of Ohio and one of Lincoln's rivals for the nomination; until late in the campaign he was after the presidency. As Cabinet member he did his task at the Treasury excellently, while attempting to undermine the president in his private conversation and building his political base with an eye to obtaining the nomination when Lincoln's first term would end. Lincoln kept him on as Treasury where he was badly needed, tolerated his plotting, called him to account only when he overstepped bounds, and three times refused Chase's offer to resign.

The fourth offer came when Lincoln refused to confirm one of his political appointments; Chase was confident that Lincoln would come begging him to remain in office, but to his surprise Lincoln accepted the resignation. Yet when the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court became vacant, and three of Lincoln's Cabinet members were angling for it, his genius for using men was shown. Lincoln was confident of the firmness on the slavery issue, and though the president remarked privately that he would rather have swallowed his arrabbas than appoint Chase, he did so for the good of the nation. Then, ironically, it was Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase who administered the oath of office to Lincoln for his second term.

William H. Seward had been the odds-on favorite to obtain the Republican nomination. A former governor of New York State and current senator, he had gained the admiration of anti-slavery forces by taking on the legal defense—at the risk of his own reputation and even life—of a mentally impaired black man accused of the brutal murder of a family in Seward's home town. Regarded as the leading light of the Republican Party, he had criticized while assuming the nomination, only to shine in at the convention by the treachery of a supposed friend.

Lincoln offered Seward the premier position in the Cabinet, the secretary of state; Seward accepted in the belief that he would be the real power behind the throne of the "prairie lawyer" and "rail splitter." Early on and to more than one occasion, he did attempt to take over; only to be contemptuously told that he was not the president. Lincoln remembered and became his chosen friend in the Cabinet.

The brilliant lawyer Edwin M. Stanton had offended Lincoln grievously in their younger years. While the latter was a relatively unknown "prairie lawyer" in the frontier state of Illinois, he was invited to be on the legal team of a Mr. George Harding in what was considered the most important patent case in the country at that time. Lincoln was invited principally because the case was to be heard in Illinois, and he would know the judges there. The teams, however, was changed to Gentleman, Ghee and Harding...without informing Lincoln—invited the brilliant trainee to take over the case.

When Lincoln presented himself to Harding and Stanton in Cincinnati on the day of the hearing, Stanton literally gave him the back of his hand and said: "Why did you bring that ill...ing armed specimen ... he does not know anything and we do you no good." Lincoln turned over to Stanton the brief he had prepared and quietly watched the hearing. He was so impressed by Stanton's performance that he later made him his secretary of war, while appointing Harding head of the Patent Office. In the end, Stanton became one of Lincoln's most effective friends and defenders in the Cabinet.

Lincoln combined political genius with moral principle and an acute sense of the people's sentiments, against which, he realized, no political project would succeed. From early manhood he had believed that "if slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong." So in leading the northern states through a war which would cost them more than 360,000 dead, he realized that the people would not pay such a heavy price for the freedom of the blacks. Hence he focused at the outset on the preservation of the union of the North and South, only pulling out all the stops on the slavery issue when the war was almost won.

In saving the union, Lincoln set the stage for the final abolition of slavery, though he did not live to see the completion of his life's work. As he breathed his last, laid low by an assassin's bullet, he knew that he had given his all—all he had to work with it all to be. "Now he belongs to the ages."

THEY SAID

Incest

"Obesity? Negligible) is a good businessman and a good citizen but the nation is better off if he remains just that. His success is doubt his patriotism, but the intact between big business, foreign as that, and politics is always a temptation that has not preserved for a relatively few months in our history."

—Obey Sen. Jay Salvado, co-chairs that Magdalena will run as president in 2010

Trojan horses

"I want to propose a convention of so-called presidential aspirants who are coming from the ranks of the opposition so that they can be screened [as to eligibility] then can be presented as the opposition's choice."

—Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, saying that a candidate's disqualification with the administration "will not end his electoral run."

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Danial Kurtzer was the Ambassador to Israel and is currently professor of journalism at Princeton University.

TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Taste of tea

Wong Mei Ling
The Straits Times

LEGEND HAS IT THAT MORE THAN 4,000 YEARS AGO IN 2,737 BC, tea was discovered by Chinese Emperor Shennong quite by chance. A dead leaf had fallen into his drinking water while it was boiling under a tree.

He unwittingly drank it and was so taken by the refreshing effect of the tea leaf that he named it *cha* (tea in Mandarin).

Tea drinking soon spread across the country and became a symbol of Chinese high culture, which later travelled to other parts of Asia. Europe, the Americas and Russia. However, beyond its social symbolism, tea was an important form of medicine used by early physicians.

Since ancient times, the Chinese have been using tea to improve their health and to cure illnesses, said Chin Chess Seng, a traditional Chinese medicine physician and senior trainer at Tu Yuu Tang in Singapore.

It is not known when tea was first used for its medicinal value but the earliest records were traced back to the Han Dynasty (206 BC–220 AD).

Today, there are about 1,500 varieties of tea according to the United Kingdom Tea Council. Only the leaves from the camellia sinensis species of plants are considered tea.

The next time you sip a cup of tea, think of its health benefits. For example, its antioxidant properties are purported to reduce the risk and progression of cancer, boost the immune system and increase metabolism

Six main grades

There are six main grades of Chinese tea—white, green, yellow, oolong, red and black.

Indian and Ceylon tea, like Darjeeling, Orange Pekoe and Earl Grey, are all blends of black tea which are drunk frequently. Black tea is the most popular type in the world.

Based on the level of fermentation, each has different health benefits.

Fermentation is the process of crushing fresh tea leaves and leaving them to change chemically. This produces reactions that result in different flavors and colors. The different health benefits of tea have also been found in the varying levels of fermentation of the leaves.

Antioxidants

Tea contains naturally occurring chemical compounds called catechins. These are antioxidants that may boost the body's immune system, prevent infections and possibly reduce the risk and progression of cancers.

Chinese tea is also helps stimulate the nervous system, aid digestion, increase metabolism and even improve one's memory, according to Chin.

However, it is not just Chinese physicians who recognize the medicinal value of tea.

Dr. Koh Woon Puay, associate professor at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore (NUS), said laboratory research had shown that the catechins found in green and black tea may prevent the onset and/or progression of cancers.

"Both green and black tea extracts have also demonstrated cancer-preventive properties in experimental animal studies," she said, adding, however, that no human population study has been able to show that tea can cure cancer in patients.

Green and black tea may each prevent different types of diseases tea said Koh, who does research on the link between dietary habits and lifestyle and common diseases among adults in Singapore. This includes tea drinking.

A study of 63,000 middle-aged and elderly Chinese Singaporeans in the Singapore Chinese Health Study conducted by NUS between 1993 and 2007 showed that women who drank green tea daily had mammary gland that could possibly reduce to a lower risk of breast cancer. Also, men and women who drank black tea daily had a lower incidence of Parkinson's disease and possibly diabetes.

This is because of the different levels of fermentation in green and black tea, which lead to various changes in catechins in the tea, thus altering their biological effects, she said.

Bellaria nutritionist Sook Lee of Australian Healing, a center that advises on nutritional therapy also defends the scientific basis of tea and its health benefits.

"There is definitely scientific evidence showing the benefits of tea. There is countless research on EGCG, the antioxidant named for its anticancer effect," she said. Recent research has shown that flavonoids, chemical compounds found in black tea, help lower bad cholesterol and reduce dental decay, she added.

Another kind of tea that is often confused with Chinese tea is traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) tea, a combination of medicinal herbs and tea. TCM practitioners believe that combining the two makes the medicinal qualities act better, strengthening the effect of the medicine.

"Certain tea when mixed with certain medicine would help enhance the local medicinal effect," Chin said.

Brewed

TCM tea also differs from Chinese tea in its preparation. Unlike the latter which is prepared by putting boiling water over it, TCM tea has to be brewed for 30 to 45 minutes under low heat.

Unlike Western medicine, the science behind TCM is based on a compilation of traditional Chinese medicine over several thousand years and is therefore hard to pin down.

Prescriptions of TCM tea are made based on prescriptions that have been tried and tested by Chinese physicians over those years.

TCM tea helps remove "heat issues," according to Chin, which is due to the lack of water in the body, leading to symptoms like sore throats, red eyes and constipation.

It is also believed to purge the body of toxins and reduce inflammation and pain.

Nevertheless, Koh cautioned that there was still insufficient evidence to prove the health benefits of tea and it was too early to prescribe tea drinking for its disease-prevention qualities.

Not everything we consume must be for a health benefit.

"If one enjoys tea and drinks it as part of a daily diet ... it adds to the simple pleasures in life," she said.

(The Straits Times of Singapore is a member of Asia News Network, which includes the Philippine Daily Inquirer.)

Green tea

It is one of the purest grades of tea because it does not go through the process of fermentation. It is very high in antioxidants that boost the immune system, improve metabolism and may help reduce the risk of lung, colon and skin cancer.

A 2007 US-China study published in the International Journal of Cancer (2007) found that people who drank one to three cups of green tea daily had a 20-percent lower rate of stomach cancer, while those who drank more than three cups had a 61-percent lower rate.

Researchers at the University of Sheffield in Britain found that naturally occurring compounds in green tea can help prevent osteoarthritis, a type of arthritis caused by the breakdown of cartilage.

In addition, green tea is said to help regulate blood sugar levels and prevent cavities and gingivitis (inflammation of the gums).

White tea

The least fermented grade of tea which is why it is very high in antioxidants. It is said to have 38 times the antioxidant power of vitamin E and contains high concentrations of polyphenols and catechins. This helps fight the ravages of aging caused by free radicals in the body, reducing the risk of lung, colon and skin cancer, and strengthens the immune system.

Yellow tea

Similar to green tea but it is left to ferment till it turns yellowish.

Little research has been done on the health benefits of yellow tea, but according to Tea Drop's trainers (specialists who conduct courses on tea appreciation), it helps calm the heart in the body, which is why it is recommended as a nervous tea. It's also said to contain barrier-building flavanols, which prevents tooth decay.

Websites on the health benefits of tea state that yellow tea "could also claim that the antioxidants in yellow tea prevent and stave cardiovascular diseases, provide longevity and improve mental agility."

Oolong tea

Renowned as the "diet tea," oolong is semi-fermented and famous for its weight-loss properties.

Health reports by Chinese physicians based on studies on the website, www.oolongtea.org, said polyphenols in tea activate the enzyme that is responsible for dissolving fats in the body, which results in weight loss.

Floral and fruit tea

These are a combination of tea and dried flowers or preserved fruits.

Floral tea is said to be good for the eyes and skin, and helps you feel relaxed.

Fruit tea, rich in vitamin C, is good for digestion and the complexion, experts say. Sold in tea bags, said Kelvin Wu, spokesperson for Ha Dagda.

Red and black tea

These are hotly fermented tea leaves which contribute to their darker shade and stronger flavor.

A study of 3,430 adults in South Korea published in 2002 found that those who drank more than six cups of black tea (also known as pu'er tea) a day had a more than 50-percent lower risk of coronary heart disease compared with those who did not drink tea, even after considering other factors such as smoking, diet and obesity.

Red and black tea are also said to lower blood pressure and prevent heart disease and strokes. "However, too much will lead to stomach aches," said Wu.

Drink to your health

If you have a weak stomach and poor digestion, do not drink green tea or jasmine tea, advised Hong Hua, a registered TCM practitioner.

"This could lead slight pain in the stomach after drinking the tea even at moderate quantities," said the Nanyang Business School professor. From the Nanyang Technological University.

He recommended cooking and *pao-ye* (blanch) tea instead for such people. According to The Journal Of Chinese Medicine, these invigorate the spleen, which redistributes and blood cells are distributed, clear stomach heat and counteract alcohol toxins.

Drinking green tea on an empty stomach is also not recommended by Chinese tea specialists, especially for those with gastric problems. This is because the acid in the tea can harm the stomach, causing stomach aches and, in severe cases, stomach ills.

Tea is also not recommended for pregnant women and toddlers said Karen Wright, head dietitian at the Food Clinic. This is because polyphenols in tea bind with iron, making it harder for the body to absorb it.

Cutting down on tea and coffee could help improve iron levels in the body. This is important particularly for young or pregnant women and toddlers who are more at risk of iron deficiency anemia, she said.

Drinking too much tea can also be counterproductive.

"Supposedly one that is drunk more than five cups of green tea to obtain a good level of the antioxidants ... [but] I wouldn't tell people to drink that much. Probably two to three cups should be the max," holistic nutritionist Wendy Lee of Australian Healing said. It also depends on what type of tea one is drinking, the nutritionist added.

This is because tea is diuretic, which increases the rate of urination. This in turn causes the body to lose minerals as if a person passes urine too often, the nutrist, a polyphenol in tea, can also reduce absorption of minerals, she said.

Too much tea can have negative effects on the body, according to Hong.

"You have drunk more than you need when you feel uncomfortable in the stomach, or your sleep is disturbed. You would also have loose stools the day after drinking a lot of tea," he said.

Boxing king's Pac-mom is dazzling dancing queen

From page A1

bash on Friday.

She was the star of the night—exuberant, elegant and full of confidence. Even her son, Manny Pacquiao, stayed in the sidelines, knowing full well this was Dionisia's moment to shine.

She wowed everyone with her special dance number, which belied her true age as she moved gracefully on the dance floor of the Phela Grande Convention Center. The music switched from swing to samba, tango to cha-cha and she never missed a step, showing off what she learned from her dance instructors.

After her much-applauded performance, which ended at around 10 p.m., everyone was invited to get up and dance. Even Pacquiao, the new Sing Magazine and International Boxing Organization (IBO) Junior Welterweight champ, got on his feet and danced.

Pink and lavender

The Phela Grande Convention Center was adorned with pink and lavender and gold balloons.

Friends and family of the Pacquiao filled the venue, as well as various well-wishers who were allowed to come even without tickets. The number of people to attend the dance was close to 600.

Dionisia arrived at 7:50 p.m. dressed in a pink gown. She was escorted by Pacquiao, who previously picked her up at the East Asia Royale Hotel where she was staying.

As soon as Dionisia and Pac-mom entered the venue, crowds cheered and applauded. It was the grandest birthday celebration this city has ever seen.

On top of the world

Pacquiao walked his mother to the stage, where a lone decorated chair had been set up. In her gorgeous pink gown, Dionisia looked like she was on top of the world.

One by one, members of the Pacquiao family greeted her. Pacquiao's wife, Jinky, was the first in greet Dionisia, followed by the Pacquiao siblings: Liza, Bernina, Isidro, Bobby and Rogelio.

Dionisia's 85-year-old mother, Cristeta Dapigran, was also there.

And although he was invited, Dionisia's estranged husband, Rosalio, did not show up.

'This is for you, Mom'

When it was Dionisia's turn to speak, a hush fell over the crowd and everyone listened attentively.

"This is for you, Mom," he said in Filipino. "Thank you for giving us life and for raising us. There would be no Manny Pacquiao if not for you. Thank you for all your prayers. I pray for God to grant you a long life."

Pacquiao ended his speech by performing two songs, "Magsimot Ka" and "Lahing Filipino."

Touched by this show of love and affection, Dionisia rose from her seat to hug and kiss her son. It was her son in Church him for the home, revenge and blessings he had brought on the Pacquiao family.

The price of a party

After dinner, she changed into her imported lavender gown before hitting the dance floor to do her special number.

A source told the Inquirer that Pacquiao spent between P300,000 and P500,000 for his mother's 60th birthday celebration.

The amount did not include birthday presents and other expenses like plane fare for celebrities, who flew in from various parts of the country.

One of them were Dee from the United States just to join the family birthday fun in for a long suffering mother

CAN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS. Ken Manny finally rises, and mother Dionisia is right up there with him. And they sing a song together at the Phela Grande Convention Center in General Santos City on Friday night.

DANCING QUEEN is still grandma at heart and takes a break from the dancefloor and from being the superstar of the night to attend to her grandchildren.

American 'Idols' idolize Pacquiao at Chavit's victory bash

From page A1

Jose Luis "Chavit" Singson, now deputy national security adviser.

Cook, big sports fan

More than a week since his sensational knockout of Britain's Ricky Hatton in Las Vegas, Pacquiao's fame continues to shatter borders and expectations, as international stars still seek to see and be seen with the prizefighter.

"Pretty cool!" Archuleta told reporters as he and Cook stood next to Pacquiao for a photo-op. "I hope I don't get a black eye; I'd probably die."

"We'll just try to say the right things so we don't get knocked out," Cook, "idol" Season 7 winner, said in jest. "[This] chance to meet him is huge. I'm a big sports fan and to meet somebody like him who has done what for his country."

Of the host Singson, Cook said: "The guy really knows how to throw a party."

VIP guest list

When asked about his brief hobnobbing with the "Idol" stars, Pacquiao said with modesty: "I just welcomed them because it's here that one to the Philippines."

The rest of the evening, however, the two Dutch and Filipino prizefighter stayed in a private room and remained out of sight while most of the guests filed on the lawn.

A veritable who's who, the guest list included politicians, show biz personalities, businessmen and foreign diplomats, proving once again how Pacquiao's popularity the manila-born his ring exploits and cuts across party lines, had transcended his sport.

With his known intention to re-enter politics and run for congressman of Sarangani province in 2010, he certainly attracted a growing circle of potential endorsers on Thursday night. At times though, one couldn't help but wonder: Who's feeding off whom?

Irresistible presence

Imelda Marcos came with her son, Ilocos Sur Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. The former first lady said: "I'm so proud of Pacquiao because he's not only a great fighter but [has] intelligent and smart."

Singson, a longtime patron of the brash, dauntless Pacquiao as someone who "never changed even after becoming famous."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was seen asking Pacquiao for an autograph. At least three tables at the buffet party had "reserved for ambassadors" signs.

Dropping in were Sen. Manny Villar (sending off after another finishing day in connection with a road project controversy involving him at the Senate), and also Senators Gringo Honasan and Jinggoy Estrada.

Movie actors Eddie Garcinese, Gene Montano and Ricky Davao were also there.

Last idol standing

Later in the evening, Pacquiao with rain in hand, faced his guests at the terrace—where magicians and several singers had earlier performed—as if to prove he's the last idol standing.

At one point, he picked up the crowd by running Lito Camo, who composed all of Pacquiao's songs and was among the musicians playing at the party, to give away P50,000 in cold cash as an incentive for "audience participation."

The Pacquiao repertoire included his patriotic, underdog-themed Filipino tunks. Alice Cooper's "I Never Cry," and John Lennon's "Imagine," which he sang to a duet with Dionisia.

SHE COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT. And did! Dionisia Pacquiao proves 69 is the new 40 as she tirelessly and gracefully dances the cha-cha, swing, waltz, rumba and the tango completes with a very deep dip through the night.

Tribal rituals cleanse, unite towns after Palace chopper crash

From page A1

mountain forest that, they said, was disturbed by the crash.

Although held separately, the rituals were united in purpose.

Mombuwang Lazin Dalin, 360, was assisted by his red-bonneted wife, Mandaya, 78, presiding over the sacrifice of two pigs, three dogs, two chickens and nine jars of tapuy (native wine) to appease the gods. The ritual was considered as the Bagani municipal grounds.

Despite bad weather, mountain Lahuy Hanidan performed the traditional prayers, oversaw the sacrifice of a black pig and a chicken, and partook of the tapuy (native wine) right at the crash site.

The rituals were also meant to pave closure on the crash and prevent a similar accident from happening again, according to Bangsan Gov. Senator Pangarun and Digos Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr.

The two officials said in separate interviews that even as the victims' families had come to terms with the tragedy, the communities could not simply let it pass without "cleansing" rituals held.

Measure of relief

Kalingan Mayor Faustino Aquinto and Tinoc Mayor Pogong said the communities welcomed the building of the roads so the battled that without these, the accident could bring bad luck to their lives.

Aquinto said the roads served as a measure of relief for the residents of Banangan La-ud, Tinoungan and Balitay, all in Kidapawan, who were the first to volunteer to help find the helicopter.

No one among the chopper's pilots and passengers who left Baguio City for Butuan on April 7 to prepare for Ms Arroyo's visit survived the crash. They were Undersecretaries Jose Capadocia and Mac Ron Pesayco Jr., Presidential Security Group (PSG) Commander Brig. Gen. Carlos Cleto Ibay, Bolinao Lieutenant Capt. Alvin Alegaro, Quarter Master Inf. Glen Bendaña Reyno and Sgt. Bor Gene Bravo.

3rd and worst

Against said the crash was the third in the area near Mt. Peling, the Philippines' second highest peak that straddles the provinces of Bengues, Mague and Nueva Vizcaya.

In 1993, a plane crashed on Mt. Palayokyok near Peling. A helicopter also crashed in Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, in 2001.

"Since the April 7 incident was the worst, it was very impressive that the roads be paved," Aquinto said.

Heroes of the search

Credit must be given to the residents of Barangays Tamaraw, Lomod and Balitay in Kidapawan and Barangays Mark and Poblacion in Tinoc, according to Tinoncs Killip, presidential assistant for the Cordillera.

"Without them, the search could have taken longer. They endure distances that they help in distances that happen within their domain," he said.

Killip joined local officials who went to Poblacion in Tinoc on April 8 to oversee the transport of the bodies from the crash site to Loakan airport in Baguio.

"The search was difficult because there are ravines where the members can rest and full area. The way to the site was also foggy, very cold and slippery. Worse, there were leeches along the way," Killip said.

Farm-to-market roads

But the people braved these conditions and offered help, he said. "They led the way and helped clear the forest."

Aquinto and Pogong expressed thanks to Malacañang for recognizing and awarding certificates of appreciation to the people who had helped in the rescue.

The two mayors also hoped that the chopper crash showed the national government how badly the towns of Kalinguas and Tinoc needed farm-to-market roads and livelihood projects.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Joe Bontuyan
Bureau Chief Nico A. Reconcho

Fishermen, farmers turned aid dependents

By Tet Olaya
Contributor
Iligan Piang, Maguindanao

'Tomorrow we will have rice...'

THERE WAS GOOD NEWS IN the evacuation center on the night of May 12.

"Red Cross food supply will arrive tomorrow," Ahmad Gutamilong, a school principal who is himself an evacuee, announced to a group of men and women.

Many of them entered Ya Barrichallilah (all praise is due to Allah)" when they heard the news.

Daoud Bajuandi, 34, a father of five, was thankful.

"I was filled with hope. My problem has somehow lessened because the supply is coming in. Now, I will be able to replace the rice I borrowed," Bajuandi said.

That night, Daoud served a plate of rice lavished in each of his children.

"Tomorrow we will have rice," he told the children.

The good news only lasted for a night. The following morning, they were told that the Red Cross food ration was postponed until military operations stop.

"But when will military operations stop?" Engr. Sitrin Imlang asked.

Bajuandi, having only coffee for breakfast, still does not know where to get food for lunch for his children.

"Food ration from World Food (Programme) and Red Cross (International Committee on the Red Cross-ICRC) is our main source of food," Ahmad Gutamilong said.

"With our farms destroyed, there is no other source left for us but to depend on 'relief' (food assistance)."

Fishing could have been an alternative source of income for many families, but this day can no longer do.

Dwindling ration

"We should have gone fishing to the coasts, but the military did not permit us," Bajuandi said. They now depend solely on food rations.

The last time they were supplied with food was on March 31 from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

For Gutamilong, who has a family of six, the 25 Kilograms of rice is only good for 10-11 days. But instead making rice only for lunch and dinner, Gutamilong said, cassava would do for breakfast.

In these times, many families like that of Bajuandi and Gutamilong would borrow food from other families.

"We borrow food from each other," said Gutamilong. This is paid back when supply arrives.

The delay in the arrival of supplies would force evacuees to take the risk of returning to their farms in the interior villages to get anything they can have for food.

In their villages, they face the possibility of being caught in the crossfire as mortars could come raining down anytime. They go to their abandoned farms with the fear of being mistaken for rebels by government soldiers, or, worse, as military assets if the rebels see them.

Their fears are not unfounded. Cases of missing persons were reported here in Datu Piang, Kabuntalo Tindi, 28, Lino Mohamad, 31, and Hamadin Mohen, 28 were reported missing on May 7, the day they went to the village of Bagasin in the neighboring town of Datu Saudi after receiving information that food was to be distributed there. That was the last time the three were seen here.

Their relatives were also threatened over "Sitio Sabang Magkaibiday," a local radio program of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Cotabato City, with Fr. Jun Rescudo, OMI, calling on the military to return the missing persons to their families.

"Her children were crying the night before he went missing. They had nothing for dinner," Fatih Hadji Apoh, 39, relative of Late Mohamad, said.

Panic buying of cedula

Early morning of the following day, even without taking a cup of coffee, he immediately went to Pagalin to get food supply.

Mohamad's body was found floating along the Rio Grande on May 12. He was immediately buried. Tindi and Mohen remain missing.

Copies of community residence certificates, or cedula, ran out in Datu Piang.

CHILDREN at an evacuation camp in Datu Odin Sinsuat, a town in Maguindanao.

"From May 12 to 13, more than a thousand cedula tickets was sold," Eduardo Dimaro, Datu Piang's information officer, said.

Local government employees administering the release of cedula were surprised by the sudden rise in the number of persons wanting to get the government documents from the municipal hall.

"I will get cedula for me to getting food supply. I was told by my co-evacuees in the evacuation center that we cannot get food supply without cedula," says Asan Sultan, 44, an evacuee from Barangay Maiquia this town.

"The military also asks for cedula especially when we go to the interior barangays," he added.

The cedula's purpose is for food and security, said Sultan, like many other evacuees, is willing to sacrifice whatever money he has to get a piece of cedula. Her P20, the cost of the cedula, Sultan said, he can already buy sugar, salt and oil for his family in the evacuation center.

In desperate need for food, nights in the evacuation centers are filled with talk of lumpia and mamacookies the food supply day news relating to the subject spreads as fast as text messages.

On May 7, ICRC trucks loaded with food were barred at a military checkpoint in Datu Anggal Midtimbang, a town in Maguindanao, and were stopped from proceeding to the evacuation centers. Some of the incident spread fast, sending frantic text-messaging evacuees.

It was on the same day when Mohamad, Tindi and Mohen were missing.

"Many supplies for the evacuees are being barred at military checkpoints. Even the trucks of the of the UGT (local government unit) were not allowed to proceed," Ebrahim said.

Datu Piang is one of the displaced families sovereign the of May 12, 2009, the Maguindanao Disaster Coordinating Council (MDCC) of Datu Piang listed 35,847 displaced persons or 6,867 families. Of this number, 18,669 are children (16 years old and below).

Prayer

Most of the displaced families have been living in the evacuation centers or temporary shelters since August 2008 when government troops launched massive military operations against the armed group of Ameril Umbra Kato.

"There are displaced families here that came from the towns of Midtimpay, Ahoman and Pikit (in the province of Cotabato). There are (families) also from Datu Saudi and other areas of Maguindanao," Fr. Eduardo Vazquez, OMI, of the Sta. Teresita parish here, said.

Fr. Vazquez asks, "Why does the military bar food supplies for the displaced families who are in dire need of food?"

The MDCC got information that the World Food Programme will deliver food on May 23. That is, Ebrahim hopes, "if the military will allow them to proceed."

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Suppliers/service providers/contractors who were victimized have been issued a similar Certificate of Registration, and official receipts allegedly from PAGCOR. These documents were personally delivered to the offices/residences of the applicants. Registration fees were also higher than the prescribed fees set by PAGCOR.

To avoid incidents such as these, we would like to point out some facts and reminders regarding the registration procedure of PAGCOR:

1. Interested suppliers should personally proceed to the Suppliers' Registration and Evaluation Section, Procurement and Property Department to request for a copy of the List of Registration Requirements and Application Forms.
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(Sgd.) MARIA LOURDES M. JOSE
Assistant Vice President
Procurement and Property Department

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

Marinduque hails SC rule vs Marcopper

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—THE PROVINCE'S OFFICIALS lauded a Supreme Court decision ordering a mining company to pay at least P36 million in taxes to the Marinduque provincial government.

In a decision by the 3CA's Oldest Division, issue retired Associate Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez said the Court of Appeals committed grave abuse of discretion when it ignored "irrefutable evidence" when it ruled that Marcopper Mining Corp. was exempt from paying taxes for the use of land in Barangay Lamesa in Sta. Cruz town.

The SC ruled on a technicality over the use of the land. Mar copper had said it was used as site for machinery for pollution control. But the SC ruling said the land was used primarily for "permanent improvements and therefore not tax-exempt."

Less justice

According to then Supreme Court spokesperson Commissioner chief of the provincial board, the SC ruling was welcome news that the people of Marinduque had been long waiting for.

"The decision restored our people's confidence in our judicial system and we have great hopes that our tribes' claims against Marcopper will be justly compensated," Nepomuceno said.

"Justice may have come too late for the Marinduqueños but credit must still be given to those who fought the good fight with us," Cagimunda. Reyes, Marinduque's lone district representative, said.

Reyes, who was formerly the province's governor, asked lawyer Harry Roque to assist her legal team, composed of then congressman Edmund Reyes and provincial board Edgardo Balgoa-Bo, to convince the SC that the CA had erred in finding that the mining firm's properties were tax-exempt.

"We are praying that it is not an empty victory because Marcopper has ceased operations since 1996. All their assets have been either transferred to affiliate building companies or sold off to former partners," Reyes added.

Nepomuceno, meanwhile, said he is hoping that the provincial government will use the P36 million to mitigate or rehabilitate the environmental damages that have been caused by the operation of the mining company.

Marcopper ceased mining operations in 1996 when the whole town of Boac was submerged in floodwaters and tailings brought about by a collapsed tunnel of the mining company's Tapian Pit in March of the same year.

The spill was considered as the worst mining disaster in the country's history, rendering the Boac River "biologically dead."

A report of the United States Geological Survey in 2001, meanwhile, identified the Makulapnit Sinto of Marcopper to be in imminent danger of collapse while the Maguilugalla tailings dam in the name of Mogpog is heavily eroded. Gerald Omar B. Cheruiben, Inquirer Southern Luzon

UNLOADED
Children find time in Balogo for their wooden carts called "tuktuk," which have also been used since 1956 to transport wood used for cooking and harvest agricultural products in the upper towns of Buliuan, Pual, Labuagan, Tingloyan, and Pinalpalo.

Bishop lashes at return of Abra violence

BAGUIO CITY—A BISHOP RIdicule officials on the unabated violence in Abra after gunmen fired at the house of a reporter of a Church-run newspaper there on Wednesday dawn.

Police are investigating whether the attack on Malcolm Bandigan Trinidad, a reporter of Abra Today was connected to an editorial that criticized the province's only elective governor.

"I was shocked when it came to my attention what happened to one of the staffers (Trinidad) ...," Abra Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian said in a statement.

"If this was intentionally done to harass and to silence Majestic Trinidad in response to one of the issues brought out in Abra Today I the Bishop of Bangued and the whole Church of Abra strongly condemn this very barbaric and violent act," he said.

Trinidad said the wrote the editorial questioning how the cooperative was being managed by a relative of an Abra official.

She said a .45 cal. bullet was lodged in her bed after the attack. Ben-ree Cabanes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Teacher-cops trade guns for blackboards

By Marlon Ramos

IN THE 1990 ACTION-COMEDY FILM "Kindergarten Cop," Hollywood superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger played an undercover policeman who posed as a preschool teacher to jun down a notorious drug dealer.

Schwarzenegger, who portrayed the character of short-tempered detective John Kimble, showed the transition from the very start and was upbeat over the misdemeanor of his new mantle.

In time, the tougher undercover cop easily won the hearts of his kindergarten class—as well as those of his cute suspicious school superiors...proving that policemen could be darling teachers, too.

Over at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City, a new breed of lawmen has reprised Schwarzenegger's role by temporarily replacing their service guns with pens, school books and student records.

But far from the serious unarmed California governor's character, the "kindergarten cops" of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) were not fielded as pre-school teachers to run other monotonous errands.

Rather, their primary task was to teach basic reading and writing skills to children for free.

"We also train our students on good manners and courtesy," said PO1 Elma Lubino, one of four policeman-teachers of "Bahay Bulilit," the NCRPO's pre-school learning center. "Like any other pre-school class, we try to make the lessons more interesting and motivate the children through singing, playing and other activities."

Unlike Schwarzenegger, NCRPO's four volunteers aced to teach before they joined the Philippine National Police.

Haven for pre-schoolers

"Bahay Bulilit" was once a steel container van donated by McDonald's Foundation that contained construction materials to build simple, open learning center offering free nursery and kindergarten education. It has a toilet and a mini library for the students.

Since 2006, the 30-square-meter air-conditioned classroom has become a haven for pre-school children preparing to enter primary schools, said Police Supt. Rodolfo Asoro, chief of the NCRPO's Regional Police Community Relations Division.

"Bahay Bulilit" has been organized and accredited as a pre-school education center by the Taguig City government. With the accreditation, its graduates can now enroll in any elementary school, according to Asoro.

A social worker assigned by the city government helped them develop the curriculum and manage the center, he added.

Apart from regular pre-school classes, "Bahay Bulilit" also holds summer classes for children aged 3 and under.

Aptly called "Bulilit Sa Tondo, Bulilit Sa Eskwela," Asoro said the program started by the NCRPO in 2006 was the brainchild of former NCRPO chief Director Leopoldo Bacnotan, now head of the fourth Luzon Directorate for Integrated Police Operations.

Bacnotan came up with the idea during his stint as regional police director in the Ilocos region, a known hotbed of communist rebels.

"Gen. Bacnotan deployed policemen to far-flung areas where the rebels were known to operate. That way, we were not only fighting insurgency, we were also showing the people that the police and the government care for them," he told Inquirer.

Limited resources

Asoro said the project was also part of the PNP's Serbisyo, Seguridad, Gender and Development programs.

"With our limited resources, we were able to show how the PNP is doing its share to help the government address the lack of school facilities and teachers for pre-school children," Asoro stressed.

Policemen, however, would refer parents to parents that require duties even if they volunteered as pre-school educators.

Inspector Lorna Tirano, another policeman-teacher, said the project proved to be a success since its inception five years ago.

She said they were able to help the children of colleagues who live in a housing community inside the camp financed by the volunteer group Gawad Kalinga.

The NCRPO also provides free uniforms, books, school materials and feeding programs to the students.

Relatives of policemen and other residents near Camp Bagong Diwa have also benefited from the program.

PO3 Oscar Tolentino, whose 5-year-old daughter Maricar was one of 30 children enrolled this summer, said the project was a big help for ordinary government workers like him.

"If I enroll my daughter in another school, I would have spent P3,000. I would also have to pay for books and other school materials," he said.

Another beneficiary of the center is 6-year-old Roy Joshua. His mother, Marilyn Olores, said she intends to enroll her two younger children in the center next year.

Bridging the gap

"This project somehow bridges the gap between the police and the community. It brings the police closer to the people," Asoro said.

The program also gives the teachers-turned-policemen an opportunity to go back to their old passion—teaching.

For Asoro, supporting the learning center was his way of giving back.

"I'm a proud product of a day care facility run by the National Federation of Women Clubs of the Philippines," said the police official. "My commitment to this program is a means of showing my gratitude to those who helped me study for free."

PO1 ELMA Lubino, one of four volunteers of "Bahay Bulilit" with pre-school works during lunch in an old garden. Right: The learning center inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

"SEEING OUR LOVED ONES FOR EVER short makes me wonder about the things they go through. It's good some of them can visit some times and see their families," RC CONCEPCION, May 2009

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

'Spirit of Hope' awardee in US Angeles native

By Dianne Pineda

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY that a person gets invited to the White House, much less be honored by the president of the United States himself.

It happened to Giovanni "Gerry" Bulingit, a Filipino officer in the US Navy whose name shall be included to the list of important people in history who have dedicated their lives to public service.

Former President George W. Bush singled out Bulingit in a speech on volunteerism in Washington from among several individuals and organizations, naming him the recipient of the 2007 Spirit of Hope Award, the same honor given to former Defense Secretary William Cohen, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, actor Samuel L. Jackson and Bush's former chief of staff Andrew Card.

A native of Angeles City, Pampanga, the 48-year-old Navy chief petty officer was in his senior year taking up Business Administration at the Holy Angel University when he applied to join the US Navy. He was then the only member of the school's marching, badminton and tennis varsity teams.

He family owned an office furniture and equipment business. He thought he had a promising career ahead of him. But fate would lead him on to greater things he never imagined.

"I initially didn't want to leave because I wanted to work on that my parents could take a break," Bulingit said. "And I didn't want to be away from (my) sweetie, my girlfriend of seven years." He graduated attended the same university in Angeles City.

But his father told him that he should explore his options and suggested that he enlist in the navy for a better professional and financial development.

Despite his trepidations, Bulingit left the country in May 1993. He describes that point in his life as a "blessing in disguise" because the Mt. Pinatubo volcano erupted a month later, or shortly after he left for the States. It caused several businesses to close down, including his family's. His wife, then going steat with their child, and his relatives moved to neighboring Sta. Ana town and went back to live after the eruption. In July, the child was born. It was a girl.

Out of 345 applicants, Bulingit was one of six who made it. He first reported at the Naval Training Center in San Diego, California and later to Naval Aviation Technical Training Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

"It was very tough," he said. "I had to go through a series of tests—written, interviews and physical. The main culture change for me was the military life."

When he got accepted into the navy, Bulingit said he didn't just want to fit in; he wanted to make a difference.

He graduated at the top of his class, excelled in naval aviation and was advanced to an E-5 rank with only 10 months of service. That would be the beginning of his unparalleled track record.

His life in the US Navy wasn't always a smooth sailing. Part of his job was being assigned to different places and countries, sometimes not even knowing for how long.

In 1995, he requested for duty at the Naval Air Facility in Atsugi, Japan. There, he met personnel in First Class Petty Officer. Only this time, he was joined by his wife and daughter.

They stayed in Japan for seven years. "The main hardship that I've experienced during extended ship deployments was being away from my family. But we enjoyed our time in Japan," he said.

'Zero discrepancies'

An even bigger challenge was waiting for him back in the US. On a blustered day in March 2003, President Bush declared war on Iraq. Bulingit was deployed to the USS Constellation to serve in the so-called "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

It was the most testing experience he has ever had, he said, recalling that such moment was filled with uncertainty and danger.

"We got checked to intercept an aviation, and the reason on board was extremely elevated due to the possibility of biological or chemical counter-attack from (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein."

But he did not allow the perils of war to diminish his enthusiasm.

While on his mission, Bulingit was responsible for ensuring that all aircraft equipment were well maintained and ready during and after flight operations. His dedication to his assigned task resulted in a consistent record of "zero discrepancies" during the aircraft's post-and-call, error in perfect running order."

Among others, he earned him several Global War on Terrorism Service and National Defense medals.

One time, he led several volunteers to help hundreds of homeless veterans to provide them with their basic needs such as food, medicine, mental health assistance, job counseling, referral, "and most importantly, companionship and camaraderie."

Bulingit was instrumental in organizing in the aviation problems brought about by the 2007 wildfires in San Diego, to his goal to "promote a positive presence in the community." he also volunteered with the Red Cross to help displaced families and assisted in the fabrication relief.

Bob Hope award

"I do this for the simple satisfaction of being able to help the needy and making a difference in society," he said. "I think it starts the right thing to do, and it makes me personally good inside."

All of his efforts did not go unrecognized. In 2007, he was conferred the Captain Harry T. Jenkins award for his contributions to the military and civilian community in San Diego.

A year later, he was given the Spirit of Hope Award for his role in "the improvement of sailors' quality of life for an extended period of time"—a prestigious award established in 1997 in honor of the late Bob Hope, the comedian known for entertaining American soldiers assigned overseas and for humanitarian work. This was why he was overwhelmed when he first found out about his nomination. "Never in my entire life have I thought that this would happen," he said. Hope's granddaughter Miranda Hope presented the award to Bulingit.

On April 27, Bulingit received the GEICO (Government Employees Insurance Company) Military Heroes Award for Drug and Alcohol Prevention in a special ceremony held in Washington, DC.

The top US admirals, generals and senior enlisted leaders of the US Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard were the award presenters along with Tony Nicely (GEICO's chief executive officer).

Together with other GEICO awardees, he was given the honor of laying a wreath on the monument of "Tomb of the Unknowns" at the Arlington National Cemetery, so-called because it is dedicated to anonymous soldiers who died for their country.

Capt. Michael Reilly, commanding officer of the Host Readiness Center in San Diego, was all praise to him.

"(Chief Bulingit) is my number one of 28 highly competitive chief petty officers. His personal superior performance and the countless hours of selfless community service he has dedicated throughout his entire Navy career significantly contributed to the increased readiness and overall success of our navies," Reilly describes Bulingit in his nomination letter for the award.

Community involvement

For the last 16 years, Bulingit and his family have lived in San Diego. But he will soon be reporting in Washington for a three-year duty.

Despite all this, Bulingit keeps himself grounded and never forgets to look back.

Coming back to the Philippines for good will always be a possibility in the future, he said.

"I would like to tell my fellow homeless and homegirls to always believe in themselves, do their best in whatever endeavor they choose and always get involved with the community."

It is not only in America where they can fulfill their dreams, he said. "It is any place where they can be happy with what they are doing."

MOVING every successful man is a woman. Bulingit has two—his wife Maria Isa (center) and daughter Ivy. All three enjoy one moment in time at the White House garden.

THAT TOWERING FEELING! Giovanni Bulingit walks into the White House on a mid-carpet, is received on-line by President George W. Bush who confers on him the prestigious Spirit of Hope award named after Bob Hope, for dedicating his life to public service, in September 2008. He came home once a year to former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Bulingit is coming home soon for a visit.

Marriage: Dealing with truth or consequence

RAQUEL WAS MARRIED TO Walter and they had two children. Within left the family home after eight years of marriage and stopped communicating with Raquel and her children. Four years after, Raquel obtained a judicial declaration of presumption his of death.

Another man, Joshua, a US citizen, filed a fiancé visa petition on behalf of Raquel and derivative visa for the two minor children. Raquel was able to fly in the US on a fiancé visa with her children, and married Raquel got married in California.

During the adjustment of status interview, Raquel was questioned about the "death" of her prior spouse. She submitted all documents relating to the presumption of death which the immigrant examiner questioned. The US Citizen Immigration Service in Manila informed an investigation and discovered that Walter was still alive and living with another woman.

Raquel's application for permanent resident denied because USCIS found Raquel validly married to her "first" husband.

Raquel, thereafter, was advised to just file for annulment of marriage in California and then remarry Joshua.

Many immigration benefits that are applied for depends on the marital status of the visa applicant. Aside from obtaining green card through marriage to a US citizen, there are other benefits where marital status is relevant.

By category

For petitions under first preference category (or petitions by US citizens on behalf of adult unmarried children) and second preference category (petitions by green card holder parents on behalf of adult unmarried children) the beneficiary child should remain "unmarried" until the prospective immigrant reaches the US and obtain the green card.

Therefore, a marriage may be removed into without jeopardizing the validity of the green card. If it is discovered that there was a civil marriage or a prior marriage that was not dissolved or annulled, the immigrant visa shall be considered as improperly issued and thus subject to revocation in a deportation/removal court.

The same situation may arise

IMFO
Leandro Sandoz Ignacio

also in petitioning stepchildren of US citizens. If the marriage between the US citizen stepfather and the natural mother is void because of a pre-existing marriage or was not celebrated, then no immigration benefits will be conferred to the stepchildren.

Marriage termination

Self-petitioning widows of US citizens are also at risk of being denied the visa if it is discovered that there was a prior marriage.

When an individual marries more than once, the party applying for immigration benefit must show evidence of the termination of the first marriage as well as the existence and validity of the second marriage. The person seeking the immigration benefit or a marriage has the burden of establishing the validity of the second marriage.

Proving that the prior marriage is terminated may either be through court documents granting annulment or dissolution of the marriage. The USCIS generally recognizes annulment granted by a foreign country such as the Philippines, as a matter of comity, as long as that particular court had jurisdiction to grant the annulment.

When divorce not allowed

Establishment of the validity of dissolution can be fairly complex requiring the counselor or immigration officer to become familiar with the type of foreign divorce in the country where it was obtained.

In the Philippines where divorce is not recognized, Filipino nationals seeking immigration benefits based on subsequent marriage must prove that prior marriages had been declared validly annulled. The same goes with those individuals under the first and second preference category where they should prove that there was no marriage at the time they were petitioned.

There is an important distinction between *void ab initio* (from the beginning) and voidable marriages for purposes of immigration benefits. Annulment decree may state that marriages are void ab initio and that the effect of the annulment decree is like there was no marriage that occurred. On voidable marriages, they are considered valid marriages until they are declared as void by the court.

The immigration authorities usually do not question the validity of divorce where it was obtained, where one of the parties was physically present with the court's jurisdiction. Collateral attack on divorces is beyond normal adjudication precluded by the principle of comity.

Marital status

It becomes complicated for immigration examiners because there are certain cases where annulment decree is not given retroactive effect even if it is void ab initio. This is when there are cases of fraud, misrepresentation or manipulation of the immigration law. When no retroactive effect is given to the annulment, an unexpected consequence is usually faced resulting in denial of visas.

Marital status is a key component to obtaining visas. First and second preference immigrant cases and marriage of US citizens are almost always interrogated for prior marriages. The red flag is raised, especially when the visa applicant has children. The birth certificates of the children usually have dates of marriage of parents and further investigation is conducted until the truth is discovered.

Erroneous document

There is a growing trend of denying petitions on technical and procedural grounds. Careful attention to minor formal discrepancies in documents submitted, correcting them when possible or explaining them when not possible is advisable than later on reacting to adverse consequences. The truth will come out, and they will eventually discover what you have done no matter how much effort you put over it. It is not discovered soon, it will come out in the most unexpected way.

(Attorney may be reached at law@imfocinco.com or at 887 7177).

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Quesa

A dissident still torments her tormentors

AUNG San Suu Kyi —

BANGKOK, THAILAND—"WHY are you so afraid of us?" Aung San Suu Kyi called out, taunting her military government of Burma (Myanmar) as thousands of supporters supportive listened in the rain, rekindling and renewing hope under a sea of black umbrellas.

That was 13 years ago, during a temporary period of freedom from house arrest.

On Thursday, the generals who rule the country themselves erased their continuing fear of this lone challenger by charging Suu Kyi with violating the terms of her most recent, six-year term of house arrest and locking her up in what it calls a prison "guesthouse."

"Her achievement has been to consistency she values that are associated with democracy and freedom into one person," said David Steinberg, an expert on Burma at Georgetown University.

She faces a total hunting on Monday on charges that could result in a prison term of up to five years, a harsher form of the isolation she has endured for 13 of the past 19 years.

"They are trying their best to put her out of the minds of the population," said her lawyer, U Kyi Win, speaking on Friday by telephone from Burma's chief city, Rangoon. "But the more they do that, the more they are highlighting her."

The circumstances of the latest charges against her have a touch of the absurd. They stem from the capture of an American adventurer, John Yettaw, 53, who twice swam across a lake to her house where, according to her lawyer, he delivered her a Bible, although she is a Buddhist.

Suu Kyi is on trial for violating the terms of her house arrest, though her lawyer declares the American is not on trial. Yettaw

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Rockets pushing Lakers to the limit /A24

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Titans go 2-0; Pharex rebounds

DYLAN Montoya of Smart Gilas Pilipinas (center) breaks through the defense put up by Rasheed Johnson (left) and CJ Charles of Lebanese-Pharex Zhi-Ann Energizer's Cup encounter won by the Filipinos, 91-86, Friday. (Story on page A23)

By Cedelff Tupas

ORACLE RESIDENCES LEANED ON ITS seasoned frontlines to earn back-The Cebu Energy Warriors, 76-74, yesterday and move the franchise one win behind of a rematch consecutive finals appearance in the PBL PG Flex Utility Cup at the Araneta gym.

The Titans got a huge lift from Ritz Blatche, Ildefo Sares and Jervin Cuico although they needed to come up with a couple of defensive stops to take a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five semifinal series.

Earlier, Chris Ross delivered his second triple double of the convey as Pharex leveled its own semifinal series with Lorelei at one game apiece with an 82-73 triumph.

The 6-foot-1 Ross tallied 20 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and dished out 10 assists, although he missed the ball never since more.

"We showed a lot of heart," said Pharex coach Carlo Tiro-Elma, the top pick in the PBL draft.

One of the leading candidates for the Most Valuable Player award, the rosy Matchmaker competed with Asasio and Cuico in an 18-4 binge that allowed the Titans to break away from a 67-67 tie in the third quarter.

"The big men stepped up and took advantage of Cebu's small lineup in the third period," said Oracle coach Glenn Capacio. "I didn't like the way we finished the game. But the bottom line is we won, although I would have wanted for us to be cleaner in the end game."

Paul Lee pumped in a game-high 26 points as the Energy Warriors came within striking distance, 73-75, from 17 points shortchanging by the fourth period.

The Titans, hoping to tie the six-conference title run of the Rhythm Centro Rotary Pilot, can wrap up the series with a win on Tuesday.

Ian Sidlangan hit 10 of his 19 points in the first few minutes of the second half and the Shining Crowns built a 17-point buffer on their way to a 6-point heyup that bore the third quarter buzzer.

The Holy Grocers never got closer than 72-68, after a short stab by Jerry Cruz with 4:40 left.

Then Bonnie Matias nailed a triple with the shot clock steadily down, then drove down the lane then added five more free throws to secure the win.

The scores:

Pint Guns

PHAREX (82)—Ross 20, Sidlangan 19, Matias 11, Dyan 10, Ayala 6, Delgado 4, Alba 4, Baloi 3, Fonda 2, Ta 2, Calma 1, Dayrit 0

LORELEI (73)—Cruz 18, Dio 10, Mohd 10, Valdezbrijan 9, Ong 9, Jaro 4, Quimby 3, Cervantes 2, Sagandal 1, Alcaraz 0, Pagador 0

Quarters: 17-19, 32-31, 67-67, 82-73

Second Game:

ORACLE RESIDENCES (74)—Blatche 19, Sares 19, Cuico 15, Lalangdo 12, Fernandez 8, Wilson 1, Tenebrosa 0, Dedicatoria 0, Arana 0, Sangco 0

CEBU (76)—Lee 26, Galanza 20, Ramos 8, Sinjueco 6, Villafuerte 4, Lojo 2, Reyes 2, Arana 2, Martinez 0, Feliano 0, Figueroa 0, Sumaoang 0

Quarters: 19-15, 23-32, 63-63, 74-76

Balasabas, Engino share Sabah Amateur golf lead

By Tarrey Mamaril, Columnist

SABAH, MALAYSIA—THE PHILIPPINES' Jessie Balasabas and Alvin Engino shrugged off the intimidating wounds Saturday to share the lead with local favorite Nicolas Pang in the opening first the final 36 holes of the 25th Sabah Amateur Open.

Engino, a discovery of the National Golf Association program out of Baguio, carded a one-under par 71 like Pang at the light Shan Shan Golf and Country Club Resort here for a 144-aggregate.

Balasabas stayed in it for his lead despite a 77 sprinkled by seven birdies, a triple bogey, a quadruple bogey and five bogeys.

The 26-year-old Balasabas won the second NCGA tournament in 2006 and has since been a familiar feature in the national team, whose six members will be determined starting with the Philippine Amateur championship next month at Sta. Elena.

Jessel Mendoza and Jhonh Hernando, stalwarts of the victorious Carabaog squad in the PAL Intercolab two months ago, were six strokes off the pace after a 77 and a 79, respectively.

Rafflin Reyton, who shared the first-round lead with Pang and Balasabas with a 69 on Friday, ballooned to an 87 and was out of it with a 156 aggregate.

Tyrdin Amario was at 157 after a 79, while Dante Bisnisa, who came over here as part of the ICTSI team like Reyton and Amario, had an 83 for 160.

Orcollo battles Kiamco; Pagulayan also in semis

FORMER WORLD #11 DENNIS ORCOLLO mirrored Charlie Williams, 11-6, in the quarterfinals to salvage a Final Four showdown with compatriot Warren Kiamco in the 9th Annual Predator International 10-Ball Championship being held at the Riviera hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Also Pagulayan edged Englishman Karl Boyes, 11-8, in another quarterfinal duel to become the third Filipino semifinalist in the $80,000-event that drew 112 of the world's top cue artists.

The 2008 year-old Pagulayan will take on fellow former world champion Ralf Souquet of Germany who won his quarterfinals match over another former world titlist Johnny Archer of the United States, 11-5.

Orcollo, who stands 8-0 in the knockout stage via the one-loss side, moved within one win of bagging the title and the $30,000-cash prize with 8.

Proving his mettle as top gun of the unbeaten Bogey Musketeers of Pasy Marinas, Orcollo also dethroned defending champion Tony Drago of Malta, 10-6, at the start of the knockout phase. He followed it up with a similar 10-6 victory over countryman Nicholo Lusi in the Last 16.

Orcollo, Pagulayan and Gamers are members of the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines and have 9 berth of Season Master Tilfar.

The win over Williams was Orcollo's fourth straight after being sent to the losers' bracket in the qualification phase. He trounced American Jeremy Sossel, 10-2, to enter the money round via the backdoor.

With Orcollo and Kiamco joining in the semifinals, the Philippines is assured of having one finalist in the event that attracted 112 of the world's top cue artists.

Kiamco, who swept his way to the knockout phase, bested Japanese Hiroaki Takeuchi (13-10), American Rodney Morris (11-5) and Englishman James Majid (11-4), respectively, to bring into the semis and assure himself of at least $5,000 in earnings.

Pagulayan nipped Nicolai Bergerd of France, 10-9, in the Last 32, before blasting Cesar Dominguez, 11-3, in the Last 16.

Ateneo, Adamson eye last Shakey's V-League quarters slot

(ABS-CBN Sports)

ADAMSON TRIES TO KEEP ITS TITLE-retention bid alive as it battles Ateneo Oratore in a do-or-die battle for the fourth and last quarterfinal berth in the ninth Shakey's V-League first conference at the FEUE Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Gametime is at 4 p.m. with the Lady Falcons out to continue their dominance over the Lady Eagles, who have not won against Adamson in the last seven meetings, including last year's finals.

The winner will advance to the next round, along with Manuel Luis University of St. La Salle and University of San Jose-Recoletos, which will play in an exhibition game at 2 p.m., as well as the Generic U, San Sebastian and University of Santo Tomas.

The Lady Eagles blew their chance of making the quarterfinals outright after bowing to the Generic U, 22-25, 22-25, 22-25, Thursday. San Sebastian overpowered Adamson in four sets also last Thursday to pave the way for the Lady Eagles-Lady Falcons playoff duel.

Adamson prevailed in the only meeting with Ateneo this conference, 25-23, 25-15, 25-10. But the Lady Falcons are a different team now with gifted setter Janet Serafica out of the line up in favor of Joanna Bonn Cepeda.

Norina Stanley, last year's Most Valuable Player, leads the Lady Falcons' attack line.

Ateneo hopes to draw another big game from Remebeth Ramaya, Ateneo's 17-year-old Thai import, who will join Ateneo with Chone Jocson, Kiesa Acevedo, Fille Cainglet, Misha Quiroga, Angeline Gervacio, Gretchen Ho and Julienna Borja. Cedelf P. Papac

Three s'final hopefuls play key matches

By Mayang R. Castillo

THREE SQUADS WITH FLICKERING hopes of nabbing the Metroline PBA Hustle Cup semifinals outright plunge into action today at the Cuneta Astrodome with an hour-one slide getting the hour.

Burger King and Purefoods duels at 4 p.m. with the winner staying alive, before Sta. Lucia collides at 6:30 with Coca-Cola Miguel eyeing their first semifinal berth since 2006.

The results of tonight's games, especially for the winner of the first game and for the finishers if they prevail, would add more excitement to the remaining elimination round games after last night's schedule at the Alonzo Araneta Coliseum in Cagayan de Oro called off due to a slippery floor.

Defending champion Barangay Ginebra, which has a great chance of nailing the second automatic Final Four berth, was leading Alaska, 9-2 with 8:04 left in the first when the game was stopped for a second and final time.

Referee Jimmy Mariano ordered the game stopped after he slipped and fell while trying to break up a fast break by Alaska's Jeff Chan.

Before outside the venue and moisture brought about by a packed coliseum rendered the floor slippery and unplayable, with the first stoppage happening at the 11:19 mark before play was resumed close to two hours later.

And since the Gin Kings remained at 7-5, the winner of tonight's first game can do like Rain or Shine for second spot.

Last night's game marked the first time that the Kings returned to Legazpi in 10 years, or since March 2, 1999, when Ginebra prevailed over San Miguel, 88-73, in a game that was delayed for three days because of incessant rains.

The game will be resumed possibly on May 22, according to league officials, and it will be played on the same court that the San Miguel-Coca-Cola match, which was supposed to be held in Dubai due to a travel ban.

San Miguel, at 14-3, bagged the first slot over before the Brothers' arrow from behind Thursday night to nip Barako Bull, 99-91.

GARY David and the Burger King Whoppers hope to slam their way to an outright semifinal slot.

Kelly gone for the season

FIRST THE BAD NEWS: STA. LUCIA Realty Warriors will be out for the rest of the conference. This information came directly from Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado, who was hosted to coffee work last yesterday afternoon.

But the good news, according to Buddy, is that Kelly's ailment can be treated to normal after the ranger undergoes several treatment consisting of blood transfusion and medication.

"His physician actually did not prohibit him from playing again. But I am being careful. I want him to rest first until he completely regains his strength. I also want to make sure the condition does not recur," said Buddy, adding that he is managing the reigning PBA Most Valuable Player in the United States for further tests.

Although the blood count has normalized, Buddy said the doctors still have to determine why his white blood corpuscles are "eating" his red blood corpuscles.

Buddy said they may be able to make the journey after the conference.

Meanwhile, coach Bayet Fernandez has subjected the Realtors' game plan minus Kelly, whose return to the hardcourt remains uncertain.

Ironically, Kelly's three-year crossover with Sta. Lucia expires this coming August.

* * *

Japeth Aguilar was supposed to pack his bags right after his college graduation from the Western Kentucky University on May 17 from Ely to Manila.

However, very recently, an offer that was really hard to resist came Japeth's way. He has decided to accept the offer and postpone his trip to Manila for at least a month.

According to the rapper's advisers, who is based here in Manila, Japeth was invited to join the camp of the NBA's developmental league.

"That is an opportunity so Filipinos hardly get," player Gerald enthuses. Besides, it will be good training for Japeth," he said.

After the camp comes the rookie draft.

"Who knows, you never can tell what will happen next."

Japeth finished his last season in the UB NCAA this year with Montero bystanding making it so far as the Sweet Sixteen.

With the postponement, Japeth can be expected to be in Manila by late June.

Unless something more interesting comes up again.

* * *

His PBA teammates call him The Intimidator. Roberto Ily or small fore him, watches quiver in his tremendous presence.

Very recently during practice, he spotted a mouse who was brazenly mocking around as if he owned the gym.

Visibly incensed, the Alaska rookie intimidator ran after the mouse and when he caught up with the little creature, crushed him with his foot.

Rumor for his obnoxiously lily nature, the rapper just didn't leave the rodent's carcass on the floor.

He violently picked it up on its tail, swung it around three times and then let go. The dead mouse landed inside the trash bin.

Next time you find the need for an exterminator, let me know.

* * *

HOOPVIBE: In case you didn't know, the World's No. 1 Person Conscious, Hon. Tibus of Cebu, is playing in the men's division of the escaping Asian Chess Championship here in Subic. Also is only 15 years old, the youngest woman GM in the world. He was nominated as chair of the POC-backed PhilCycling but the PBA Hilton Runners reportedly begged off. Stiller, who is in the United States with his family for his annual sabbatical, is currently involved in Philippine Martial Arts.

IN HUDDLE

Rudy Cella

Bulls roll to 7th win, whip Sharks

REMEMBER HOW IT'S FUN TO PLAY with a seven-inning UT-1 rout of Manila to smash its win run to seven in Baseball Philippines' Series 3 at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium yesterday.

The Bulls drew another solid pitching job from Vladimir Egos and Gundy de Leon, who pitched just four hits, while Nic Pestan, Ruben Lundicho and Miguel de Rossi provided the offensive spark that smothered the Sharks.

Pestan hit a solo homer while Lundicho and de Rossi came through with three RBIs to send the Bulls to their second win in four games.

Fergie Ramos, Manuel Bautista and Miggy Cervantes belted homers against losing pitcher Ray Bailey as Cebu overwhelmed Alabang, 9-3, at the Alabang Country Club.

The Dolphins' fourth win against a loss moved them to second place in the league organized by Community Sports, Inc.

Alabang fell to 1-6.

Dumaguete picked up its third win against the same number of defeats as it carved out a 13-10 victory over Howard Taguig, which fell to its seventh straight loss.

Bitoon, Gomez lead RP campaign

By Ray Luarca

INTERNATIONAL MASTER RICHARD Bitoon showed conclusively that GM Mark Paragua's victory eight to lead the Philippines' charge in the eighth Asian Continental individual chess championship at the Subic Exhibition and Convention Center.

Bitoon, the reigning Singapore Open champion, boosted his total to 2.5 points and climbed to a share of second place with compatriot GM John Paul Gomez, top seeded Indian GM Krishnan Sasikiran and seven others in the $30,000 tournament.

Another Indian, GM Chanda Sandipan, nabbed Iranian GM Ehsan Ghaemmaghami in 25 moves to grab the sole lead with a perfect score of three points.

Top Filipino hope GM Paulus Ilo salvaged Ke Jiadong of China to bounce back into contention with 2.0 points.

Trained by GM Yu Shaoteng of China in the second round Thursday, the second-seeded Ilo trounced No. 38 Yu and moved into a 31-player logjam at 13th to 22nd places.

"There are still eight more rounds left, so I still have enough time to catch up," said the 13-year-old Ilo, who will battle GM Salabi Iskiderov of Uzbekistan in the fourth round.

Derby 'Olympics' slated

5-6 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Derby by the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) is scheduled on May 18, 21, and 23 at the Valenz Center.

Top American gamefowl exhibitor Larry Whitehead has already arrived in the country for what he dubbed the "Olympics of cockfighting."

The event's results will determine who will win the NCA Cocker of the Year.

Previous Cocker of the Year winners Greg Iggy Arroyo, Mario Villamor, Rudy Albano, Pablito Antonio and Jun Saldajeno are top contenders for the World Championship Derby Cup.

The group of People's Champion Manny Pacquiao and Patrick Antonio promises to give all other participants a tough time. Rudi Ricafort and Mario Villamor lead the Cocker of the Year race with 10.5 points.

RP 28 BATTERS. The Philippine junior baseball team (14-and-under) take the field one last time after rolling a series of gamelet games held in Clubs from May 11-16. Team members include: Ping Acevedo (head of delegation), Miguel Salud, Carlos Munoz, Mic Herrera, Brian Manzano, Sindri Bandoy, Justine Medina, Dix Bonoan, Peter Bonoan, Charles Carangal, Jamir Pangapanan, Mico Nakano, Levi Isaac, Gerry Manalang (coaching staff), Mj Garcia, Carlo Cornejo, Kyle Pitallo, Migo Dizon, Owyl Manzano, Adrian Bernardo, Travon Hashimoto and Edward Flores.

Taboana closes in on Thai golfer

MIGUEL TABUENA FIRED A TWO-UNDER-PAR 70 FRIDAY TO close within a stroke of the frontrunning Thai Ist Ratanon Wannasrichan in boys Class B after the second round of the 50th Asia-Pacific junior golf championships at the Royal Hua Hin Golf Club in Hua Hin, Thailand.

Taboana pulled close to Ist. Thai rival with a 143 aggregate. Ratanon shot 72 for 144.

Regina de Guzman slid to sixth place in girls Class B after struggling with a 78-150.

Race 1 – (Yadal Girl (1) – Lovely Tea (6) – Big Mate (3) – Jolen Joy (4) – Total Precious (2) – Ann Lopez (5)
Race 2 – (Bad Apple (8) – Hey Jane (3) – Mari Mina (6) – Gold Jewel (5) – Sweet Lady (7)
Race 3 – (Pantaleon – Hontiveros – Bonnet Interview (4) – Mercy Mary (6) – Grand Finale (7) – Lady Dragon (5) – Sweet Rebel (3)
Race 4 – (Pride Of Ilo – Go Bhoy (5) – Hilago (3) – Grand Rebel (1)
Race 5 – (Lucky Speed Advisory (3)
Race 6 – (Sky Fly – Pudgeng (2) – Gallardo (6) – Complete (4) – Lady Lady (1)
Race 7 – (Lucky Jewel (2) – Bullet Rush Gem (3) – Mr. Diamond (5) – Virgin Liberty (1) – Solange Jaime (3) – Green Sound will be ridden by Lauzo Ballon.
Race 8 – (Sponsors (2) – Unbeaten (1) – Chapman Jose (4) – Rosario (7) – Sunnyside (3)
Race 9 – (Lucky Jewel (2) – Bullet Rush Gem (3) – Mr. Diamond (5) – Virgin Liberty (1) – Solange Jaime (3) – Green Sound (4) – Lady Lady (1)
Race 10 – (Pantaleon – Hontiveros (2) – Gumabong (4) – Bonnet Gem (5) – Go Go (1) – Mercy Mary (3)
Race 11 – (Yadal Girl (1) – Diamond Cloud (4) – Big Boy (5) – Harlene Magic (6) – Sweet Agency (3) – Big Mate (2)
Race 12 – (Lucky Speed Advisory (3) – Lucky Jewel (2) – Lucky Star (1) – Lucky Speed (4) – Lucky Tea (5)
Race 13 – (Super Silver (6) – Lovely Tea (1) – Jolen Joy (4) – Total Precious (2) – Ann Lopez (5) – Sweet Rebel (3) – Sweet Lady (7)
Race 14 – (Super Silver (6) – Lovely Tea (1) – Jolen Joy (4) – Total Precious (2) – Ann Lopez (5) – Sweet Rebel (3) – Sweet Lady (7)
BY TOP CHOICE of STA. ANA Park

Triple Crown begins; Go Army not in race roster

By Mayang R. Castillo

A 12-HORSE FIELD WILL SEE ACTION TODAY in the first leg of the prestigious Triple Crown series, and contesting hands-down pick Go Army is not one of them.

The prestigious colt was not declared for the P2-million event because of a foot injury sustained over this same Santa Ana track seven months ago, resulting to a wide-open race and practically making sure that there will be no Triple Crown champion for the eighth consecutive season.

Mr. Diamond could be next off as the pre-Idlebrave pick in the first leg to be run over the mile at the Saddle and Clubs Leisure Park in Trece Martires, Cavite. Mr. Diamond will be ridden by Lauzo Ballon.

Meanwhile, 10 horses have been entered in the Hopeful Stakes, an appetizer for the big event which will feature changers who are eligible for the Triple Crown but have opted not to declare.

A handsome P1.8 million will go to the winner of the first leg.

Sonnique Storm (Jose Gonzo), Bert's Gem (Christopher Tenorio), Beaulieu (Leo Duque), Creation (Rubin Madrid), Ireman Supreme (John Cordero), Heaven Sent (Dio Fernandez), Lively Dude (John Paolo Gozo), Iconic (Jeffrey Zarate), Virgin Liberty (Fernando Raquel Jr.) and Go Army complete Go Navy Octavius Alcaldi round out the Triple Crown field.

Race 1 – (Sonnique Storm (2) – Chapman Jose (4) – Rosario (7) – Sunnyside (3)
Race 2 – (Bert's Gem (1) – Gumabong (4) – Bonnet Gem (5) – Go Go (1) – Mercy Mary (3)
Race 3 – (Beaulieu (1) – Diamond Cloud (4) – Big Boy (5) – Harlene Magic (6) – Sweet Agency (3) – Big Mate (2)
Race 4 – (Creation (6) – Lucky Speed Advisory (3) – Lucky Jewel (2) – Lucky Star (1) – Lucky Speed (4) – Lucky Tea (5)
Race 5 – (Ireman Supreme (3) – Super Silver (6) – Lovely Tea (1) – Jolen Joy (4) – Total Precious (2) – Ann Lopez (5) – Sweet Rebel (3) – Sweet Lady (7)
Race 6 – (Heaven Sent (4) – Super Silver (6) – Lovely Tea (1) – Jolen Joy (4) – Total Precious (2) – Ann Lopez (5) – Sweet Rebel (3) – Sweet Lady (7)
Race 7 – (Iconic (5) – Bullet Rush Gem (3) – Mr. Diamond (5) – Virgin Liberty (1) – Solange Jaime (3) – Green Sound (4) – Lady Lady (1)
Race 8 – (Lively Dude (3) – Sponsors (2) – Unbeaten (1) – Chapman Jose (4) – Rosario (7) – Sunnyside (3)
Race 9 – (Virgin Liberty (1) – Bullet Rush Gem (3) – Mr. Diamond (5) – Solange Jaime (3) – Green Sound (4) – Lady Lady (1)
Race 10 – (Pantaleon – Hontiveros (2) – Gumabong (4) – Bonnet Gem (5) – Go Go (1) – Mercy Mary (3)
Race 11 – (Beaulieu (1) – Diamond Cloud (4) – Big Boy (5) – Harlene Magic (6) – Sweet Agency (3) – Big Mate (2)
Race 12 – (Lucky Speed Advisory (3) – Lucky Jewel (2) – Lucky Star (1) – Lucky Speed (4) – Lucky Tea (5)
Race 13 – (Super Silver (6) – Lovely Tea (1) – Jolen Joy (4) – Total Precious (2) – Ann Lopez (5) – Sweet Rebel (3) – Sweet Lady (7)
Race 14 – (Super Silver (6) – Lovely Tea (1) – Jolen Joy (4) – Total Precious (2) – Ann Lopez (5) – Sweet Rebel (3) – Sweet Lady (7)

Guiao picks RP 5 this week; Japeth joins D-League

By Musong R. Carcilla

PENG GUIAO WELL NAME this week his 12-man roster for the relatively light Southeast Asian Basketball Association tournament in Medan, Indonesia.

With Kelly Williamson of reinstatement lately Guiao, who has kept a 14-man pool since last June, said he'll have an easier time deciding who will be named as alternate for the Asia 4-13 tournament the Filipinos are favored to rule with ease.

"It will still be tough," Guiao said. "At least, with Kelly sidelined, I will only need to drop one (from the roster)," added.

Williams, the reigning Philippine Basketball Association MVP, seems to be on track for the rest and squad but the Hsu Lucas ace was felled by a sprained ankle in practice during the All-Star break in Bacolod last month and has not played since.

The Philippines has to send in official 12-man roster next week in preparation of the continental championship in Changsha for grab.

The Azkals is the first of three regional tournaments facing the national, who are competing in the tough and unexplored Asian Cup in July in Japan and the Filipino-born players will be the qualifier for the World Basketball Championships next year in Turkey.

The Filipinos is scheduled in Jiangsu, China, on Aug. 4 to 16.

Guiao also said that he gave it face-15 Japeth Aguilar, who finished his collegiate career in Western Kentucky in the US NCAA, a free pass to try out in the NBA Development League.

"So that he wouldn't have to go back and forth, we had an arrangement with Japeth for him to attend the NBA camp and then come here right after," Guiao said.

"That would give him enough time to join the team in preparation for the Asean Cup (July 10-26)."

Guiao said he appreciates Aguilar's "sincerity" in wanting to fulfill a commitment with the RP team.

The Asean Cup, meanwhile, will give Guiao more leeway in naming his roster since the tournament allows each team 15 players in the lineup.

AGUILAR: D-League bound?

Nationals keep focus

'It doesn't matter which team we play in q'finals'

By Jane Navarro

JAKARTA—THE HIGHEST-SEEDED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL TEAM REmained focused on winning its competitive bowl as the 20th Fiba Asia Championship Cup enters its crucial phase here.

"It doesn't matter which team we'll play (in the quarterfinals)," said RP coach Sigfre Reyeman after Smart Gilas pulled off two victories in their first three games to secure its place in the last eight.

After storming Al-Riyadi of Lebanon the other day and demolishing Sangmu of Korea in the tournament opener, Smart Gilas doesn't care which team comes next.

"Our main objective is still to gain experience. But hopefully we could win the game as well," said Reyeman.

Regardless of the outcome of its final elimination round assignment, the team's objective is to secure a semifinals berth which will pave us a premium Smart Gilas is assured of second place in its bracket.

The only RP loss was a 99-87 setback from Iran's Mahram Tehran, whose winning margin was its lowest in three games so far.

Victories by Indonesia's Satria Muda and Hong Kong's Eastern (1-2) Thursday night overhauled the lower half of the standings in Group B dominated by Asia of Jordan.

Smart Gilas will face either Satria Muda or Al Arabi of Qatar depending on the result of the Indonesia-Jordan match. Group A match also Saturday.

A victory by Satria Muda (1-2) and a defeat by Al Arabi (2-1) against Jordan (3-0) will arrange a quarterfinal showdown between Indonesia and Smart Gilas.

"I haven't seen Qatar play, most probably we'll be facing them in the quarterfinals," said Reyeman. "We'll have our scouting today."

CJ Giles, who missed the quadruple-double by a hair after leaving a foul-limiting in the game against Lebanon, was given a clean bill of health by team physician Albert Balle and performance enhancement coach Rodel Sinel.

Reyeman opted to rest the 6-foot-7½ Giles against Korean for the quarterfinals assurance.

Smart Giles is in the initial phase of its preparations for the 2011 Fiba-Asia Championship, the qualifying tournament for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

NEIL Cervantes of FEU tries to break down the defense of Mapua's Mark Saruanga at the low blocks.

Tams hold off Cards; Falcons soar

By Mark C. Glengro, Contributor

THE EASTERN U MOTORED ITS second straight win after holding off Mapua, 71-66, yesterday in the PBCOM Fiesta of Five Season MVP Cup at the Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Red Cervantes scored 20 of his game-high 27 points in the second half to lead the Tamaraws, who outshot their Cardinals foe 40-29 in the final minutes of the contest.

"We've just lucky to get the win," Red Cervantes (sadly stopped up for us," said EU coach Glenn Capacio), whose boys moved up to second place in Group B at 3-2 behind champion La Salle.

FEU pulled away for good with five unanswered points in the 3:27 mark of the final period.

Rookie Allan Mangahas kept the game close with 22 points for Mapua, who dell to 1-2.

At the second game, Arts Canada shot 20 points as defensive drowned the Benildes, 72-62, and improved to 2-1.

"I wasn't totally satisfied with how the team played after they lost the lead, but we need to win as many games as possible for us to gain confidence and high morale," said Adamson coach Leo Austria.

Carlo Lastimosa, son of former PBA stalwart Jojo Lastimosa, paced the Blazers with 13 points like Adamson's Lester Alvarez.

Meanwhile, games on Thursday will pit Adamson taking on Perpetual Help at 2 p.m. at the Flying V Arena while Letran battles Jose Rizal U in the second game.

The scores:

First game

FEU 19—Cervantes 27, Tayum 10, Mamuyac 8, Yerro 6, Alcoseba 4, Gonzales 4, Garcia 0, Arago 2, Tamayo 0, Rosario 0, Villamor 0, Egedorio 2, Dela Pena 0, Rosario 0

MAPUA 46—Mangahas 22, Gervacio 11, Dominguez 8, Abadilla 2, Ballesteros 0, Valdezco 3, Serrano 0, Bautista 0, Pascual 0, Sanico 0, Arnaiz 0

Quarters: 19-12, 28-23, 46-42, 71-66

Second game

ADAMSON 72—Canada 20, Alvarez 12, Lacuna 8, Galvez 8, Lozada 8, Ramos 5, Maglos 5, Clemente 4, Cabrera 3, Magcalumpong 0, Quimada 0, Cavada 0, Ebarle 0, Sandoz 0

M. BENILDE 62—Lastimosa 13, Galvez 12, Mendonez, Dela Pena 8, Montenez 6, De Guzman 5, Sgt. 4, Mejorada 2, Mabe 1, Angeles 0, Mangal, Bandoval, Iguzara 0, Ebarle 0, Sanz

Quarters: 19-12, 28-28, 44-41, 72-62

Borel leaves Kentucky champ at Preakness

BALTIMORE—CALVIN BOREL HAS CONfidence in his horse will win the Preakness Stakes, the kind of gumption expected from the Kentucky Derby-winning jockey.

Except Borel won't be riding the Derby winner on Saturday.

He made the unprecedented decision to get off Mine That Bird and settle instead for Friesandey, the spectacular filly who is the 8-5 early favorite for the second leg of the US Triple Crown.

"It's hard to leave a Kentucky Derby winner," jockey Bobby Albarado said. "You're the only one with the chance of winning the Triple Crown. It's a hard decision to make."

Mine That Bird is the 20-1 third choice at 6-1 with Friesan Fire, the Derby wagering favorite who staggered home next-to-last two weeks ago.

"The 12 other horses are going to have to run the race of their life or say bill off or something stupid happens," Borel said by phone on Friday from Louisville, Kentucky, where he took a break from mowing his lawn to do that.

"I just got to point her in the right direction and she'll get me there."

If that happens, Rachel Alexandra would become only the fifth filly to win the Preakness. You have cited since Nellie Morse in 1924 to cap the last to score the winner's blanket of black-eyed Susies with flowers.

If Mine That Bird should win and set up a Triple Crown try in the Belmont Stakes seven month, well, Borel can take some of that credit, too.

AP

Sen. Villar: Neither a Hatton nor a Pacquiao

SEN. MANNY VILLAR ON THURSDAY was once again the parents asserted boy walking back into the chaotic funds set market reform his installed fish to make backwards race.

There was an uncertain glee at his charming markdown.

He appeared unsure whether to assess or smile.

Of course, he was really looking at emphasis. But it was not Villar's fault if the ruddy presidential pitch failed to follow the script.

* * *

Villar opened for the unexpected during the induction of Philippine Sportswriters Association officers headed by its president Teddyvic Melleza at the old Laurel Division in Mandaluyong City.

Villar made no astounding promise.

That means they cannot accuse the former Senate President of campaigning ahead of the next election timetable.

What did the Tondo-bred farmer market vendor do?

Nothing much, if we go by how he, Villar's mould he proclaimed him over telling off their chair polishing alleged dishonesty on the economy.

Villar promised so he no better that he could sell.

In simple orange-colored t-shirt, fit and trim, he chose the would never be another Ricky Hatton.

No, there was no direct allusion to the disgraced Englishboxing hero.

But Villar assured listeners he won't stay set still if ever he gets floated by a court hayseeds.

* * *

Villar vowed to be very permanent.

For the record, Villar had been through enough tragedies and disasters.

But, unlike Haitians, Villar claimed he had always managed to bounce back.

He went bankrupt after his first wholesale try at trading fresh fish dropped.

He licked his wounds and was tried his hands at the construction business.

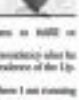
"From what I know, I've built a total of 180,000 houses," he told his amazed audience.

He added he has also planted no less than 150,000 trees.

"But I say this because I've already completed these tasks," he said.

* * *

Villar said it was one his style to reveal



BARE EYE

Mercado Trinidad

ahead what he plans to fulfill or achieve.

He has the human presidency after he initiated on the independence of the Upper House.

"I was trained, but here I am running for president," he said.

He dreams for his dear Wonderland?

Nothing much, Villar said, except to see the Filipino regain his rights.

He and Filipinos must learn to express and love their country again.

"If we can't be proud as Filipinos, how can we ever work for the betterment of our country?" he asked.

* * *

Villar, before closing, took time out to heap praises on Manny Pacquiao, who conquered and humiliated the overrated Ricardo in Las Vegas early this month.

"Pacquiao made it all possible for Filipinos to again fall in love with themselves and their country," he said.

Pacquiao is indeed worth emulation.

But ironically, Villar had he was not the least surprised why Filipinos have lost faith in government.

Without saying it, Villar made it clear he won't be caught doing a Pacquiao.

Villar will never endorse President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, much less her husband.

The former pace boy will never be party to the shameless standing and cheering of the poor Pinoy.

* * *

28.88, SPEAKING. A call and feature of the PSA initiation last Thursday was the presentation of a special plaque to Sen. Villar for having steered efforts of the Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) headed by Ding Dagan and Butch Pinpin. It was not clear if the number had previously been cleared with the PSA formerly by the birth anniversary of the late Danny Flores of the Gilga Ambassadors whose selfless dedication as sports patron and friend certainly continues to be valued in Philippine sports.

Top Globetrotters showcase their comic acts

THE TOP STARS OF THE FAMOUS Harlem Globetrotters will showcase their fancy tricks when they play three games at the Araneta Coliseum.

Now in their 83rd year of touring and performing, the Globetrotters will bring their act to the Philippines for only the second time on May 24 and 25.

Shagari "Skywalker" Allayne, the all-time leader in Globetrotters franchise history at seven-foot-three, joined legendary Mashanda "Big Easy" Cohen, high-flyer Jermaine "Hi Rise" Brown and explosive guard Marcus "Sweet Pea" Haney highlight the event pegged at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the 24th and 7 p.m. on the 25th.

The Globetrotters, who will play against opposing rival team the Washington Generals, will also stop by at Pilipinas SM North Edsa, Gateway, Robinsons Galleria, SM Megamall, Podium, Shangri-la, SM Mall of Asia, and SM Manila on May 23.

The Harlem Globetrotters will provide a sneak preview at the Signal Village in Taguig on May 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tickets are available at all Ticketnet outlets and at the Big Dome booth with prices ranging from P220 to P2,100 for the 7 p.m. Sunday appearance and P620 to P3,175 for the other two schedules. For details, call 911-5555.

Mark C. Glengro, Contributor

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Rockets pushing Lakers to the limit

HOUSTON'S Kyle Lowry (7) goes for an underhand rank against the defense of Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom in Game 6. The Rockets won 93-80 to tie the series at 3-3. AP

HOUSTON—THE HOUSTON ROCKETS have played their best this season when everything seems ready to fall apart.

They were virtually dismissed as an NBA playoff favorite last February when Tracy McGrady had season-ending knee surgery and Rafer Alston was traded to Orlando.

They fumbled away home-court advantage in the playoffs first round with a 95-66 loss to Dallas in the regular season finale.

They lost backup center Dikembe Mutombo during the Portland series and leading scorer Yao Ming a week ago against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Yet the Rockets are still playing, pushing Los Angeles to Sunday's Game 7 in their Western Conference semifinals with the resiliency that has become their defining trait.

"We're surprising a lot of people," said 6-foot-9 (2.06-meter) forward Chuck Hayes, who became Houston's starting center when Yao, who is a star (3d crossborrow) talks, broke his foot in Game 2. "I'm sure a lot of people had us written off. But if you did that, then you really haven't been watching basketball for the past month, because we're underdogs and we surprise people.

"People keep expect it, but somehow we get the job done."

The day after learning Yao was out for the rest of the season, the Rockets routed the Lakers, 99-87, in Game 4. Los Angeles won Game 5 by 40 points, a loss that had many believing Houston's upset had finally run out.

Then came Game 6 on Thursday. The Rockets raced to another big lead, moved still a lead, and still and won by 13 points.

"We've been through so much, that's been the story of this season," forward Ron Artest said. "We're down, but we never fall and we're never counted out."

The Rockets found out on 9th. 10 that 9th-Grady, the first of the franchise since he arrived in 2000, would miss the rest of the season. The two-time league scoring champion was bothered by knee problems from the start of training camp and missed a stir when he announced that he was going to have risky reconstructive surgery.

In the midst of that, Houston ended Alston on Orlando on 8th. 10, a deal that brought Kyle Lowry to the Rockets. The move turned Alston Brooks into Houston's starting point guard, and many questioned if the second-year pro could handle the job.

The upheaval could have really become a distraction, but the Rockets went 11 of 12 games from 8th. 11 to March 9. AP

Splendido hosts Scramble finals May 22

SPLENDIDO TAAL GOLF AND COUNTRY Club will host the finals of the 2009 Monster Ironbilt Classic on May 22.

The Greg Norman-designed Splendido will host the 36 qualifiers from 12 prestigious clubs in Luzon who will be vying for the titles in three different divisions in the 18-hole stroke-play format.

"Splendido being a coastal course is the perfect venue for the finals," said Lowell Gopuz, president of the organizing Master Sports, Inc., the local distributor of Ironbilt sports products.

To be crowned are Division 1 for teams whose two members have a combined handicap-average of 4 to 9.9, Division II for those in the 10 to 15.9 range and Division III for those in the 17 to 26 bracket.

The three champion teams will earn an all-expense paid trip to Japan as guests of the Mizuno LPGA Classic in November.

In the field are ten Bohol blue-blooders and Team Cebu, the tandem and ladies division champions of this year's National Tournament of Club Champions. Mangaldanan is paired with Richard Jones for Northwoods and Cedis partners Bruce Flint for Sta. Elena in Division 1.

Several family teams are in the cast including the Garduc Bronson and Ramon (L) of Forest Hills, the Lees (Daniel and Carmella) of Sta. Elena, the Uniene (Ernie and Bodie) of Riviera and the James couple (Dennis and Marie) of Manila Southwoods.

ADIDAS WANTS YOUR OLD SHOES!

Alcantara-Gaspi tops Forest Hills tourney

ANTIPOLO—THE TANDEM OF PELAGIO M. Gaspi and Ed Gaspi rallied mightily in the four-ball recently to bag the overall championship in the eighth Forest Hills Invitational conducted at Hyundai and Golfers at the Heritage layout here.

Alcantara-Gaspi tallied 45 points in the four-ball for a 128 total even as Buffy Garcia-Jaime Fernandez topped the low gross division after posting 72 points in aggregate play and 38 in four-ball for a 110 total in the event.

Edgar Lee and Mike Miranda settled for the Group I championship, two points behind Alcantara-Gaspi in the overall race, after totaling 81-10, with the Ramos tandem of Dan Ramiro and Wenn Ramiro finishing second.

More than 150 teams made up of members and their guests teed off in the four-day event, and club manager Ilog Ramy Cortes promised an even bigger tournament next year.

Another Korean pair in Cho Sung-il and Jo Hyuk-yoon prevailed in Group II action, edging the Alvin Lee-Willy Yu duo in a 108-107 card-off. The two scratches, 127 125, in the four-day event also backed by Club Cas Pioneer Insurance, Timbas Ramamurty, Texas Eagle, Yamaha golf cars, Sanyo Steel, Bagnet Steelshape and Sun Cellular.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL TICKETNET OUTLETS LOCATED AT THE SM DEPARTMENT STORE CUSTOMER SERVICE AREA AND AT THE ARANETA COLISEUM TICKET BOOTHS. FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 911-5555.

Business Features Editor Margie Quiogue-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Turnaround time for Danao, Bohol

Subsistence farmers are now learning to become entrepreneurs

FARMERS prepare to harvest upland kangkong.

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

WHEN ASISCLO "BOY" Gonzaga, a farmer's son, left Magsaysay, Danao, Bohol, to study in the big city, it was a sleepy rural agricultural town.

Decades later, he returned to Magsaysay a successful engineer and electric power distributor, and he was aghast to see that the barangay of his childhood had remained the same, as did the people's values.

His wife Soledad said: "He thinking does not have as many children as you can. That way you can send some of your daughters to Manila as maids, and they can remit money back to you."

Social worker Debbie S. Mercurio, who was assigned to Danao after graduating from St. Theresa's College in Cebu City, said that when she first entered the town in 2004, the sights that greeted her were of men playing tong-its (a card game) or sabong, men drinking and idle women gossiping by the roadside.

Fortunately, those scenes are slowly disappearing, mainly due to the arising up of the Jose L. Gonzaga Farmers' Foundation Inc. (JLGFFI) and the entry of the Australia Business Volunteers (ABV), a nongovernment, nonprofit international development agency with 3,000 assignments done in 11 countries.

As the local counterpart of the ABV here, the JLGFFI, Mercurio guides volunteers and assists them in the seminars they give to teachers and community leaders on farm management, early childhood development, bookkeeping, new strategies in teaching biology, physics, English and general science, project proposal writing and ecotourism.

Farmer Veremarco Duavis Jr., chair of Kahusa sa Dita (Rita of) Bagobey Multipurpose Cooperative, echoed Gonzaga's observation: "When her husband returned, he found that our sources of income were still the same crops...rice and corn. There was no progress. When Sir Boy organized the cooperative, he introduced other sources of income like gardening."

Also, Gonzaga changed the mindset of the farmers that vegetable gardening was for home consumption only. He introduced seeds from Taiwan that yielded high-value crops like sweet corn, bell pepper, watermelon, broccoli and salad tomato.

Gonzaga said when the farmers saw their first batch of harvested watermelons, they did not know what they were, even thinking that they were a kind of squash.

They did not share their story, and left the entire harvest in the storerooms of Gonzaga's relative, covering the fruits with banana leaves.

But that was then.

Now realizing the monetary and financial value of these fruits and vegetables, the farmers are using a steady rise in their monthly income.

Duavis said that in the past, a harvest of palay and corn earned for a farmer around P4,000.

TURNAROUND B2

NATIVIDAD Gonzaga if Carmen has in Chocolate Hills, Clarea has (inset top).

DEMO farm at the Gonzaga Farmers' Training Center. The white plastic mulch demo (inset) organizes the growth of weeds and keeps the soil from eroding.

Leading through adversity

THEO CHESLEY B. SULLENBERGER knows that US Airways Flight 1549 would fly through a flock of geese and lose both engines. Then he likely would have stayed out of the cockpit that day.

After all, what in their right mind wants to pilot an expensive aircraft? Thankfully for the 155 passengers on board, however, the worrisome situation was in the controls reliably crash-landed the plane in the Hudson River.

Although he never would have volunteered for the adversity he faced in the skies above New York City, Sullenberger's turbulence started as a result of his leadership in the midst of harrowing circumstances.

Before January 15th, Sullenberger was an accomplished, but anonymous pilot. Afterward, he was recognized as an American hero, drew a cipher audiences exhaustive to spoke, and was highly sought after by federal aviation officials for his safety recommendations.

Going through adversity, though not pleasant at the moment, opens the door to new levels of influence.

By staying poised and keeping a positive attitude under pressure, leaders can pass through adversity having grown in stature more than they ever could have in comfortable times.

In this article, I'd like to focus on the personal benefits that can be gained by triumphing over adverse conditions.

Resilience

A study in Time magazine in the 1980s described the incredible resilience of a group of people who had lost their jobs as steel mills closed in place closings. Researchers expected them to be discouraged, but they were surprisingly optimistic. Their adversity had turned into advantages.

Because they had already coped with job loss and found employment at least twice, they were better equipped to handle adversity than people who had always worked for the same company and found themselves unemployed for the first time.

Maturity

During more than four decades as a pilot, both with the Air Force and commercial airlines, Chesley B. Sullenberger had to weather his share of storms and mechanical glitches. When questioned by Katie Couric about his heroic handling of US Airways Flight 1549, Sullenberger credited his past experiences for giving him the maturity to steer the plane.

"The way of looking at that might be that, for 42 years, I've been making small, regular deposits in this bank of experience, education and training. And on January 15, the balance was sufficient so that I could make a very large withdrawal," he said.

The bumps in the road may seem only to be nuisances, but they're often the best instructors on the leadership journey. If we're observant, the lessons learned during hard times can be applied at a later date for an advantage.

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

Greater opportunities

Just about every successful experience I've met has numerous stories of setbacks that opened the door to greater opportunities. Consider these not-so-flattering accounts from the lives of famous Americans:

Early in his career, Walt Disney's Laugh-O-Gram studio went broke, leaving the talented man out of work. Milton Hershey failed clamantly in his initial attempts to open a candy store. Henry Ford's Detroit Automobile Company went bankrupt before reorganizing as Ford Motor Company.

In the middle of adversity it can be difficult to stave off feelings of hopelessness, but oftentimes a bright future waits on the other side of hardship.

Respect

Respect almost always is gained as old fault ground. In the words of Plutarch, "The measure of a man is the way he bears up under misfortune." You can serve your courage in the sunshine. It takes difficulty and darkness to prove bravery.

Summary

The economic crunch creates adversity and leaders find its pain and pressure acutely. While it can be hoped for adversity it can actually serve to benefit a leader. By bearing in mind the potential upside of leading through difficulty, it can be easier to deal with our pressure-troubles.

(John Maxwell is coming back to Manila! Attend The 2009 John Maxwell Leadership Summit: Leading in Challenging Times at the John Shangri-La Hotel on June 23, 2009. Call 687.2614/9917.8011.13 or 813.2372 to book your seats.)

A new SM Hypermarket is now open to serve you

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In the photo (from left): Herbert Sy, President SM Hypermarket; Mrs. Felicidad Sy, Henry Sy, Sr.; Jesus Pratt, Mayor Benhur Abalos, Robert Rivera Executive Vice President-SM Hypermarket; Teresa Sy Coson and Jodie Sta. Maria

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URDANETA CITY hosts the country's largest cattle market.

Herd of traders makes cattle market come alive

By Yolanda Seisle
Inquirer Northern Luzon

URDANETA CITY—FOR THREE days a week, the usually quiet area at the back of the new city hall turns raucous alive.

On Thursday nights, the rejoice (animal traders) start to arrive with truckloads of cattle.

Business reaches its height on Fridays and Saturdays when the people wake up to the sound of cows and carabaos mooing, horses neighing and goats bleating.

The traders and middlemen enthusiastically go about their business of selling and buying stocks.

Country's biggest

Welcome to the city's cattle market, the country's biggest in terms of area and development.

Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. said the cows, carabaos and horses sold here come from Pangasinan and other northern Luzon provinces. Those slaughtered in Tarlac, Baguio City, Pampanga, Bulacan and Metro Manila usually come from the market here, he said.

Batangas traders also come here to buy their stocks for fattening.

Around 900 head of cattle, 20 horses and 200 goats are traded in the market weekly, said Alfredo Zarate, who is in charge of the market.

Some 50 head of cattle are left behind, waiting for buyers and placed in corrals rented out to the traders at P1,000 a month.

Only about 30 horses are sold here, said DTCI Ramon Delmario, in charge of keeping order in the market. Most of them are natives, while a few hybrids are bought by horse racers from Pampanga, he said.

No misunderstandings

Since 2000, when the was first organized at the cattle market, Delmario could not recall any major misunderstandings between traders and middlemen.

Cases of animals going on rampage are almost zero, he added.

Perez said the city's cattle market was established after World War II.

The first cattle market was established in nearby Villasis town but this did not progress as the town was not so peaceful then," he said.

Former Urdaneta Mayor Mariano Moreno campaigned among the buyers to do their business in Urdaneta, telling them that he would give them a "good area for cattle market."

He established the first cattle market in the present Bagbahan (subsidiary) market site. The market was transferred to the yard of the then municipal hall, and then to the present place.

When it was a barrio (now) the city leased a private land behind the town Church until 2004. That year, the lease ended and the cattle market finally found a permanent site near the new city hall along the national road.

The present two-hectare cattle market used to be a rice land, Perez said. The city spent P65 million for landfill and facilities to make it the biggest cattle market in the country.

But the market does not make big money out of it, Perez said. Traders pay only P5 as "entrance fee" for each cattle and horse, and P1 for goats sold there. The fee for transferring ownership for cattle is P40.

Decreasing number

The exit dates back to 1978a when the ordinance was passed, Perez said, noting that there is a need to increase the fees as the cost of cattle has more than doubled.

When the ordinance was approved, a year-old cow cost P1,000 to P6,000; but now it costs P23,000.

The city also earns from rentals of concessions inside the market, and some residents make money from selling corn tops to animal traders.

Perez noted the decreasing number of livestock, specifically carabaos, through the years.

Ten years ago, more than 1,500 head of cattle were traded weekly in the city, but this number has gone down to about 900 weekly.

Saturday afternoon scenes and the weekends start trekking out of the market, bringing with them their animals.

Quiet then descends on the corrals, until Thursday night when it comes alive yet again.

FIRST Gen's Power Corp. (First Gen) won the 2008 "Asia Pacific Refinancing Deal of the Year" award from ProjectFinance magazine. First Gen earned the award, which was announced in the April 2009 issue of ProjectFinance, for the power firm's successful completion last year of a $344-million refinancing agreement with large foreign banks.

Turnaround time . . .

From page B1

With an additional vegetable like ampalaya (bitter gourd), the income can increase to as much as P20,000 which, in Daraco, can go a long, long way.

Gonzaga said, "Today, the farmer families realize the value of education and they want their kids to become professionals."

She also said that the farmers used to be shy about marketing their products.

They would dump their harvests on the Gonzaga property and expect her and her kin to sell the products in Tagbilaran City, the provincial capital, or to the neighboring island of Cebu.

Dareza said that with training from the different government agencies, her cooperative members, who now number 136 from an original core of 50, now know the right way and right time to harvest and distribute their goods.

"We learned that harvesting in the afternoon and delivering to the market on the same afternoon is not advisable," he said. "There are hardly any buyers in the public market at that time of the day."

They are becoming small entrepreneurs. They no longer have the burden of marketing to the Gonzaga Farmers' Training Center. Instead, middle farmers, they are able to sell their products directly to the buyers even if it means going from house to house.

There is no need for middlemen, Dareza said. "Our townmates buy vegetables because fish is expensive. Abundant vegetables cost cheaper."

Municipal Agriculture Officer Ramon Delmario said:

In Baler, people take pride in their work

By Joan Cornelio
Contributor

Locals strive for perfection in their chosen craft

A VENDOR of soybean-curd (tofu)-dishes not his delectable sister-in-law.

ON THE SPRAWLING GROUNDS of Baler, in Bill, several hundred locals and a few tourists waited for the sun to rise. Their patience paid off for, that morning, clear rain-homecoming across the sky providing a spectacle.

A taho (soybean curd) vendor was also on the hill that morning, strolling in the hungry.

Using a ladle, he scooped out taho from a double-lined tin receptacle. He filled large plastic cups for people, topping the soybean curd with syrup. It provided just the right sweetness for the otherwise bland taho.

Pride of work is what Ria Hontiveros-Baraquel, 50, a taho vendor for most of his adult life. And he is only too happy to go by the name "Boy Taho."

"In Manila, [the taho version] seems to use the soy beans and put more sugar in the symbol (syrup). Look at my taho, see, it hardly jiggles. It's solid," Boy Taho said as he pointed to the creamy white concrete that filled his tin receptacle.

Finding his fortune

Thirty years ago, Boy Taho and a friend took off from San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, and went to Manila to work in a Chinese-owned soba factory.

Later, Boy Taho sold taho on the streets of Tagaytay.

He later heard of a more progressive little town farther south along the coast. In Baler, Aurora province, Boy Taho found his fortune.

Proclaiming his "huge success," Boy Taho revealed how he was able to buy a house and he through sheer hard work.

From walking the streets with the tin cans strung on a bamboo pole slung over one shoulder, Boy Taho went on to ply his trade using a bicycle with a sidecar.

Now, he owns a motorized tricycle, he said.

"My taho also positioned a Pharmacy graduate. She's at home overseeing for the board exams," he said, beaming with pride.

He has seven other sons and daughters, the youngest of whom is in high school.

On the hill that morning, Boy Taho's grandson Nomani, 10, wove through the throng of sightseers, handing out soybean curds, receiving payment, and picking up discarded plastic cups, which he properly disposed of in trash cans.

Proud Balerians

Another proud Balerian is Zenaida Torres, 55.

He gave up a high-paying job as grounds maintenance supervisor at the Riyadh International Airport in Saudi Arabia.

When homesickness took its toll after six years, the agricultural engineering graduate returned to Baler, married Rizaveta, and began four children.

Torres accepts orders for tile boxes, bridal document boxes, placemats, bags and decorative mats. All are made of sabutan (pandanus substrate), a material similar to rattan, dyed in brilliant or pastel colors, and woven into intricate, sophisticated patterns.

At first, Torres tried opening up a store to sell his wares. But the handicraft completed by his ten weavers would sit for weeks on the shelves causing his customers. Now, Torres only takes orders for various products before his weavers get to work on them.

Rummaging through his wares being readied for delivery, a reporter spied a gorgeous box in various shades of green interwoven with beige accents.

"Oh that," he said. "I found a small loan on it, so I didn't deliver it."

Indeed if he could sell it in the exposure, Torres refused, even though the damaged part of the product was imperceptible.

Torres later decided to give the box to the reporter, declining payment for it.

Perfection

Striving for perfection is their work seems to go hand-in-glove with pride of place among Balerinians.

At Gerry Shan's Place one afternoon, a tall, bespectacled woman took customers' marinade orders.

The same woman personally served the dishes, taking pains to please the customers.

"We're so sorry, there's not much side [yam] in it," the woman apologized to customers, referring to the dish being served.

The professional-looking woman is Ilen Herrera, a member of the Manila police force.

Her husband is "Gerry" Shan Gan, the talented chef behind the scenes.

At Gerry Shan's, there appears to be only one female helper who wipes the tables clean and washes dishes—a far cry from most other Filipino restaurants where there are lots of bored help.

The restaurant is impressive in that, it is run like an out-of-the-way family-operated European bistro—no frills, just good food.

Bit of history

Benito Mecina is curator of the Baler Museum. On the museum property is the home the cops her of Manuel Luis Quezon—president of the Philippine Commonwealth.

Mecina is a treasure trove of Baler's rich 400-year history.

He walks tourists from her bailiwick to the church around the corner. There, she would tell the story of how the Kastilaneses held a Spanish garrison at bay.

A moving story that can only be told by a woman who takes pride in her heritage.

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Sunday BIZ

Ilocanos come home to homegrown eatery

Text and photos by Cristina Arnaldo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—THE ONCE BUSIEST restaurateur is now succeeding a thriving food business, which has become a byword in the culinary industry here and a destination because of its authentic Ilocano dishes.

Pamela Amigoni comes from a family known for good cooking. She belongs to the third generation of restaurateurs who trace their roots to grandmother Severa Abbas Abaya. Her considerable skills were passed on to Pamela's mother, Precious Severa Pedro.

Severa used to run the Mexican Kitchenette, probably one of the pioneering restaurants in downtown Laoag in the 1950s.

That period opened the doors for small food businesses to flourish. The family matriarch made her mark in the industry because she put her stove cooks to traditional Ilocano dishes. Precious later inherited her mother's business, renamed it Pepperjohn Kitchenette and expanded it to become one of the first fine-dining restaurants in the city.

Under Precious's management, the restaurant expanded the Ilocano menu and added Filipino and Spanish cuisine. She established on her entrepreneurial skills by incorporating a catering service—which later proved to be a gold mine.

She opened branches within the city and even had an outlet in Metro Manila where Ilocano (deep-fried pork chunks) and longganisa (native sausage) are sold in bulk.

When Precious died in 1990, it was no surprise that her daughter, Pamela, would continue the tradition of home-cooking through her own dining place, La Preciosa, in honor of her mother.

Pamela said she was forced to take over the business because she vowed to let her mother's dumbbod that she would continue the family's legacy of providing good food.

"This wasn't the life I dreamed of. I even told my mom, 'Your life is not my life,'" she said.

She finished behavioral science and wanted to pursue medicine. But she had no course of sending herself to medical school when her mother died and the restaurants closed.

Having run out of options, Pamela banked on her mother's cooks and her own limited cooking skills to put up her own restaurant.

Pamela also relied on her husband, Frederick, to manage and supervise the business.

She found her niche in baking, which she first learned when she was in grade school. Her famous ensaymada is her favorite.

Her mother encouraged her to take baking lessons when she was just 9 years old.

"My mom handed me a cook book and told me to try baking. Hopelessly I didn't know how to do it, but I produced my first ensaymada, which was hard as a rock, at 9 years old," she recalled.

Pamela worked within the framework of an Ilocano gastronog to give character to her dining place.

Pamela said her restaurant continued serving carabeef (beef) until the mid-1990s because the locals were the main customers.

They got lucky whenever food lovers like musicians, medical representatives and visiting doctors came around on special occasions.

"Tourists were only a handful. We didn't focus on Ilocano food because it's [considered] 'poor man's food.' But we've been proven wrong. Ilocano food is now the in thing," she said.

Over the years, the city has become a home to a wide variety of restaurants from seafood, Chinese to franchise outlets of popular Metro Manila based restaurants.

Hotels and resorts have also invigorated Ilocano cuisine that further divided the market.

But La Preciosa is holding its own also because of the catering service where, real profit comes from. Pamela said catering was less intensive in labor and capital than maintaining a restaurant.

"In the restaurant, you have to attend to the every need of a single person who only comes for coffee. How many people will prepare for that ... from the kitchen, waiter to cashier? You really have to wait for people to come to. But in catering, the guy is fined to matter how many people will attend [a function]," she said.

She said the restaurant relies on its name for good service and authentic Ilocano dishes for its steady stream of clients.

"We maintain our market share by updating our menu and experimenting with old Ilocano dishes," she said.

She added that her restaurant does not become it offers vintage cuisine, which is based on research and oral history from early Ilocanos.

She has started popularizing "bagbat," which is a modified pinakbet. Instead of mixed vegetables, the bagbat is made of pure bagnet with the same taste as pinakbet.

She may have been reluctant to go into the restaurant business, but Pamela is now committed to serving good Ilocano food because she has found a passion in it, just like the generations of women before her.

THE RENOVATED mansion along J.P. Rizal Street in Laoag City is the home of La Preciosa restaurant.

THE RESTAURANT'S dishes are based on traditional recipes.

LA PRECIOSA takes pride in serving authentic Ilocano dishes.

yet because the locals can easily whip up chicken (vegetable broth) or pinakbet (vegetable mix) dishes over homes," she said.

It was in the late 1990s when Ilocos tourism picked up and La Preciosa started catering to on tourists looking for distinct Ilocano cuisine.

It has not stopped since.

"Our restaurant today has become a destination itself. One can't leave Ilocos without dropping by our place to have a taste of Ilocano food," Pamela said.

She said she finds joy in seeing tourists take souvenir shots of her restaurant—an old house that was renovated to give a feel of an authentic Ilocano house.

Like any other business, La Preciosa gets through ups and downs. The presence today of fast food chains and other restaurants in the city has resulted in a divided food market.

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INQUIRER SPORTS

Tourism jobs seen to help RP weather global storm

OTHER SECTORS MAY BE SUFFERING from the global economic downturn, but not the local tourism industry.

"The country's think tourism activity will account for 5.6 percent (three million Filipinos employed in this industry and even increase their number significantly to help tide the nation over the lingering global economic storm," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano.

Durano said that the industry was actually on a hiring mode, while other sectors have been laying off employees.

He said the 1.2 million volume of foreign and domestic tourists in the first quarter was a substantial upward, indicating another banner year for Philippine tourism and more jobs for Filipinos despite the global crisis.

He said an additional 1,221 tourist wards PH tourist have been opened and another 2,315 should follow suit by yearend, thus increasing the industry's capacity to accommodate a much bigger volume of tourists and employ a lot more people.

These new facilities are part of the P103 billion worth of expansion projects of various investors, involving some 7,300 new hotel and resort rooms.

"Such developments necessarily create jobs and livelihood. In fact assured that we in the DOT (Department of Tourism) and the private sector are working very hard to keep our tourism booming and help fill up some gaps in the economy," Durano said.

"But while employment creation could always serve as a noble goal for any industry, it could also work as a noble means to spawn more job-generating tourism enterprises and businesses. That is the virtuous cycle that we want to establish and perpetuate through investment promotions at any and all [levels] of the country," he added.

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Durano

The annual event is the country's only tourism-focused job fair.

Fresh graduates and the unemployed from other industries who are considering a career shift are being invited by Durano to join the TST Manila by preregistering online at www.jobsfit.com.ph.

Participating in TST 2009 are DOT-accredited local- and foreign-based employers such as airlines, shipping/cruise companies, hotels, resorts, restaurants, travel agencies, tour operators, convention and exhibition centers, spa and wellness establishments, recreational firms, golf clubs, media and entertainment companies, business process outsourcing companies, banks, schools, government agencies, and entertainment outlets, among many others.

"Many of these employers are themselves expanding their individual tourism-related operations and they need big number of people for that," Durano added.

The TST Manila 2009 fair is slated at the SMX Convention Center on May 22 and 23.

This year's 278 employers have been confirmed as participants, 34.3 percent more than last year's 175, thus harboring a bigger number of job openings available this year.

The Manila fair follows a highly successful staging of TST Cebu last March at the SM City Cebu, offering some 9,404 applicants from Visayas and Mindanao a total of 8,398 jobs from 131 employers-exhibitors.

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- Jewelry scandal rocks Manila /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

How Bert Lozada changed my life

Legendary swimming teacher taught people of all ages–this writer included–how to be safe and happy in the water

BERT LOZADA in his 70s with a toddler student

By Alyn B. Henson
Contributor

WHENEVER I AM STRANDED, STOLEN, or kidnapped, there's no place I would rather be than cool in the ocean. I've been a scuba diver for the last 20 years, and my idea of bliss is sitting in a boat in the middle of the sea, having sunset between cities, and jumping into the salty blue water. I have a great respect for all sea creatures, and am passionate about protecting the marine environment.

I love the water, but very much at home in it, and cannot imagine my life without it.

It wasn't always that way.

I remember two instances when I thought water would kill me. I was about six, and my brothers, who were carrying me to a waiting pool in some sort my hand, started fighting over me—and proceeded to drop me (three of them inside. I remember my mother's scream), and how I thought I would pass out before I was bodily plucked out. I had nightmares of being underwater for weeks.

Another time, in a second-grade classmate's swimming party in a country club, the other girls taunted me about hanging on to the side of the pool. When one girl came close to me, I jumped on her and both of us swallowed a lot of water before I scrambled back to the group. I swam off swimming parties after that.

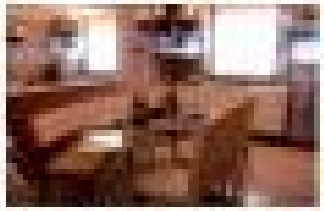
Scared

I was 11 when my parents decided to enroll me in swimming lessons at what used to be the Ace Health Club in White Plains. (And by then some we dread the sound of chlorine, and most fire had an indoor pool, the smell was magnified several times over).

On the first day of class one summer afternoon, I was one of only two girls and five boys, but all of the other kids were younger than

NOW BERT | C4

Camella, putting the Philippines under one roof



How Bert Lozada changed my life

From page C1

...chest was even a factor! I sat up professionally in the shallow side, wondering where the teacher was. Then, a dark mat with a mop of straight hair and large, penetrating eyes splashed noisily into the pool. It was Bert Lozada, our swimming teacher. He seized the ball out of me.

Our name the kickboards, my cohorts hoarsely yes bung on to while kicking from one end of the pool to the other. After several turns, the boys started to falter, and that was when I first heard Bert's loud voice boom across the place like it was judgment day. "Langoy!" I figured out early on that I had better do what the man says.

It also soon figured out that Bert was gentle with students who labored, but could make crybabies cry even more.

He took me aside in our second class and showed me how to dog paddle, then watched intently as I attempted to the deep end of the pool, my heart beating hard as I tried to focus on my breathing and prayed that he wouldn't yell at me. When I made it, he smiled. "O, you see? Dyan, keep practicing."

Six month-old

In the days that followed, the same scenes would be replayed. One minute, Bert would be holding a sniffling 10-year-old boy by the hands and pulling him into the water as the kid sulked by his mother; the next minute, I would paste from my constant dog paddling to watch in awe as he gently led a six-month-old baby boy into the water, making him float on his back. "He's going to have a swimming pony for his first birthday," Bert said with a chuckle.

Several minutes later, just when the baby had calmed down, Bert picked him up and threw him a short distance into the water, as the baby's mother, sitting poolside, covered her eyes in fear from shielding. The baby cried again for a few minutes, but in no time was gurgling and floating like he was born in the womb.

By the end of the semester, I was dog paddling with abandon, and had even begun to try a few strokes. Bert would hand us a spoon we would pass from one hand to the other when our fingers lined up between alternating strokes, keeping each stroke long and relaxed.

A few months later, I swam out into the ocean for the first time by myself, in deep water. I was free, I was done single.

Middle of Tchaikovsky

Fast-forward to today. May 2009. Just a month ago, I was in the middle of the Tchaikovsky Swimming Pool in Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, doing a hundred laps down to chase shades and excuses away and haemorrhoids. On the surface, I floated around in water that was probably thousands of feet deep, and I wondered how I had ever been afraid of being there.

Last May 4, the man who taught me how to swim, Bert Lozada, died of pancreatic cancer at Pacific Cancer Hospital in Clinton, where he was receiving treatment. He was 68.

He was actually diagnosed in May 2007, and was given only until December of that year to live," says his eldest son, Anthony, who has been helping his father touch more lives. He's now 42. "But with prayers and good doctors, he lasted this long."

I can almost imagine Bert glaring at the clouds with those bulging eyes, and scowling the minute cells shirking into insurrection, albeit temporarily.

Stopped throwing babies

With sons Anthony and Angelo helping him out—daughter Suzanne lives in the US—Bert continued the school he had inherited from his father into the Bert Lozada Swimming School (BLSS), a national institution, with classes being taught in pools all over the country.

They stopped throwing babies into the water after Anthony learned the new technology for teaching infants with their parents in 8 to 10 months.

In June, BLSS will launch its Islands Swimming Program for teaching adults how to swim, in a sponsorship endorsed by each resident's concerned local.

The school also holds regular outreach programs in depressed areas like Smokey Mountain. One things gave his father more joy, Anthony says, than seeing an underprivileged student earn an athletic scholarship because he had learned how to swim, and swim fast.

BLSS is a member of the ES Swim School Association, and some of its coaches have been certified by the Australian Council for the Teaching of Swimming and Water Safety.

The original Lozada swimming school was established in 1960 by Cape Caroline Lozada, Bert's lolo, a motorcycle policeman who had become concerned over the growing number of deaths due to drowning. "That's why my father was also a disciplinarian, because of his own failure," says Anthony. "Even at this age, we were afraid of him: he would give you that look of his. Like many dads, he wasn't very expressive with words, but values are more gauging up, he would hug us, make us sit on his lap. I have a very clear memory of him helping me fly my kite."

Zeras and rank

Bert was no more bigger pussycat, however, when it came to his wife of 42 years, the renowned concert pianist Zeras Reyes Lozada. "He was very submissive and patient with our mama," Anthony recalls.

When Zeras was artistic director of Puerto Real in Intramuros, Bert would attend all the performances and even help out backstage with the technical details.

Although I met Zeras years ago, it was only later that I learned she was Bert's wife. "Your husband taught me how to swim—he changed my life!" I told her once.

"It was a perfect marriage of sports and music," Anthony says of the relationship.

Bert Lozada started swimming at age 12 and became a member of the Philippine national team, competing at the Asian Games in 1958 and 1962.

It was as teacher, however, that he made his mark and touched countless lives. Swimming champions Eric Buhain and Akiko Thomas were among his students. "My dream is to see a swim-loving Filipino population, and for watching as because the preferred sport and pastime across all ages in the country," Bert has been quoted as saying.

"I think that's why he never really trained us, his kids, to become competitive swimmers; he taught us to be teachers," Anthony says. "He knew the objectives and the rewards would be greater, and we would reach out to more people this way."

Although Bert retired in 2007, he never quite left the pool, Anthony reveals. "We would still bring his dashboard, because even coming out of the ICU, he would be asking if the students already had their kickboards."

Once, when a friend told his child was really afraid of the water, Bert dropped in on the lessons and carried the child out to the pool himself before endowing him to one of the coaches. "His legacy was how to always keep kids safe in the water, and to teach people everywhere to truly enjoy the water, as well," Anthony says.

People like me. I never got to thank him, but I trust Zeras's driftered the message. Godspeed, sir Bert. I'll think of you next time I'm happily floating in the middle of the sea somewhere, and I'll always be grateful for this wonderful world that you opened up for me.

Still afraid of the water? Get over it. Check out www.bertlozadaswimschool.com.

BERT (seen in red, right, seated) and Zeras (in white left, seated) Lozada with children Angelo (second from left), wife Peggy; daughter Suzy (third from right), her husband Jeffrey Anthony (second from right) and wife Elvira; and grandchildren Ryan, Elijah and Sophia

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Summer is one breathless swirl

The season is perfect not only for sightseeing, but also for golf, cycling and ballroom dancing

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

SUMMER IS REALLY THE PERFECT TIME to discover the beauty of our country. From north to south, we have an incredible range of options and thanks to QTV's "Humor Life," which has been featuring vacation homes, I have had the chance to see so many summer options.

Bagnio is the quintessential summer locale. The weather is pleasant and nothing beats pine-scented, fresh air. The resident Red Ant Locals charming suburbs in Silver View Park or in the market.

An outstanding new feature is the recently opened BenCab Museum (check out www.benabmuseum.org) along Km 6, Asin Road. The multilevel modern structure features a vast collection of Cordillera artifacts, works from several renowned painters, and the art of Ben Cabrera himself.

Not to miss is a special session called Ifrohan Gallery, where art is an expression of love as seen during our forefathers' time. Other parts of the gallery include a café and my favorite area, the gift shop where I bought books for Ben in autograph.

The adjacent farm and garden area have different fans—Tabs, Sengmar, Bigas, Kalinga and Benros...that are the rest. One can experience living like the traditional Igorots albeit with the comforts of modern-day amenities, like a shower with hot water!

The panoramic view from the Mansion ranges from the mountains to the South China Sea. In his spacious studio, Ben's creative juices flow abundantly. He has found a new home and Bagnio is so lucky to have him.

One way to Bagnio was extra special since we checked in Hotel Elizabeth (see www.hotelelizabeth.com.ph or call 374-6390067). The striking, Mediterranean-style, boutique hotel along Gilmahar Street is located near Wright Park, and each room

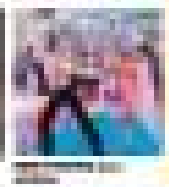
GARDEN D2

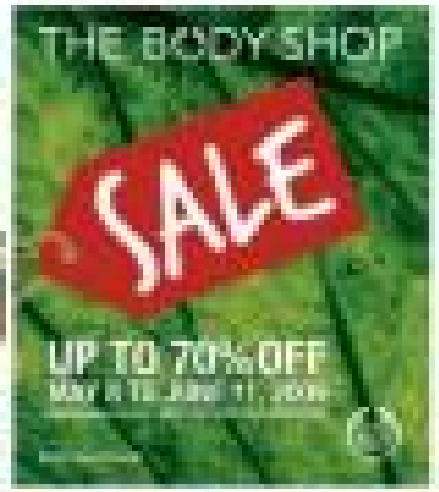
TLDF head Dom Larrazabal with Age Group winners Sea Princess and Loana Parrales

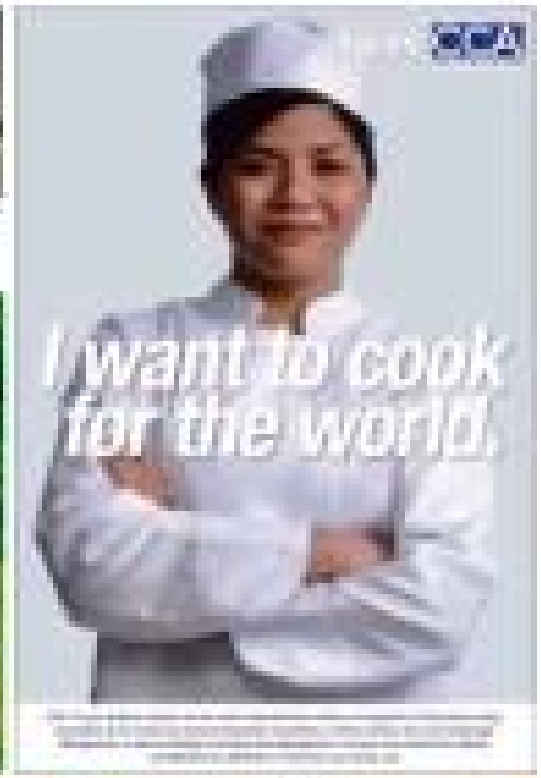
SUPERGA
PEOPLE'S SHOES OF ITALY

Eastwood Mall, Greenbelt 5, Ruslan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang

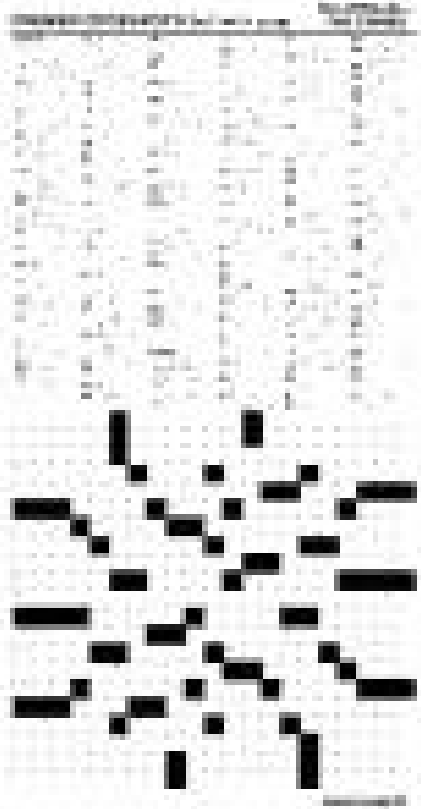
Summer is one breathless swirl







Soccer Decisions



The arts for all to see

By Margot C. Rodriguez
Photos by Nelson Matawaran

Ballet Philippines' Bing Glasgow and Camille Monteverde-Javier

The Cultural Center of the Philippines' resident companies will climax Bonifacio Global City's summer passion fiesta in an evening of music and arts with Ballet Philippines (BP), Tanghalang Pilipino (TP) and Philippine Madrigal Singers (the Mads) who will hold their first-ever joint event at Bonifacio High Street in Bonifacio Global City (BGC) on May 30, 8pm.

As an emerging city center, BGC's vision is to integrate the arts into its lifestyle with its mix of non-traditional art forms and presentation of high art into the mall culture. Through these free shows, the public gets to enjoy the country's finest talents and materials.

The repertoire consists of BP's 25-minute ethnic inspired "Ulaying (Classy-dog ka lang!)-Giving Ruling), excerpts from TP's children's musical "Mabait," and popular songs interpreted by the Mads', including Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours."

"Ulaying," choreographed by Alden Lagrosas, is about palaces and egos, inspired by Mindanao legends. The story is about Bayloyan, a demi-god who has brought prosperity and happiness to the people. His cousin, Diabolo becomes jealous of the attention and steals the hearts of the people by outdoing the kindness of Bayloyan. When the people turn away from Bayloyan, he labels the earth Diablos then withdraws the heritage of Bayloyan by wreaking havoc on nature and ruining the people's lives. The people then implore the gods to bring back Bayloyan.

Under a grant, Lagrosas was able to immerse himself in Mindanao in 2007 and acquire himself in the tribal rituals and dances. Working with groups who are sensitive about the preservation of their culture, Lagrosas devised a modern dance vision with ethnic flavors of animal gestures and shapes, the ceremonial dance from Bukidnon, with its signature clacking-of-bamboo dancers hold hands in a reverse "L" position and execute rhythmic footwork.

Erick Avelo composed the score, while Grace Bravo will do comic chanting.

Those who watched the Walt Disney animated movie, "The Legend of Mulan" can relate to TP's version of "Mulan" based on the ballad of a young woman who joined an all-male army to defend the honor of her family and country. It combines martial arts movement with dance, choreographed by Denisa Reyes, costumes by Gino Gonzales, lighting by Palanca winner Rody Vera and music by Jed Caballero Baluyong.

Fernando Josef, TP's artistic director says "Mulan" is appropriate for Bonifacio High Street because "it's colorful, movement oriented and a visual delight with matching music. It's very cute."

Cis Bartlett, Ivanjoe Isaac, BP's executive director Sandy Hontiveros says the group is very flexible. It can make a program at a drop of a hat. When Ivanjoe had a RHB last December, the enthralled audiences were glad to their seats despite the rain.

BGC as an Inspiring Venue

A second home for Benavidez-painters is on the rise at Bonifacio Global City. BP2 has already used the studios for facilities. When it is completed, the theater and choral singing companies can also hold workshops there.

BGC aims to bring new opportunities for these companies. "It's like going to a new world. There is something unique about the place and the audience. That's why we're studying the kinds of productions and concepts. We are thinking of doing more street plays," says Josef.

Noemi Jamilon, BP's officer-in-charge adds, " There is a market waiting to be tapped by the cultural and to be developed on a new audience. The Bonifacio Arts Foundation offered the space and in exchange we will perform here."

Hontiveros also handles the fund raising for the venue and the coordination of the different companies in Bonifacio Global City says, "The concert is a way for us to prove that art can be accessible."

Endurance

The upcoming concert is also a celebration of the companies resiliency. Despite the struggle to raise funds, the changes in artistic governance and a fickle audience, these companies continue to do what they do best. Through shows, they had achieved their well being, commitment to the community and their individuality. Although stable finances and leadership are measures of success, it seems that these artists are getting help from the many who spend their lives helping their artists their vision.

Ballet Philippines marks its 40th year with a transition. After the departure of its artistic directors, Jaime Lucero, head of the company school and BP's junior company has been acting as the officer in charge, until the void has been filled. He shrugs off the recent turn of events.

"We've been through hard times. It happened exactly 12 years ago when artistic director Agnes Locsin left the company in the middle of the season and we had collaboration with Ballet Manila. The vision of the company kept it going," he says.

Hontiveros adds, "The company is bigger than anybody. It will continue to thrive with or without personalities. There are many other people whose hearts are in the right place. We have our angels who will cover anything that we need. We've survived this long."

BP continues to produce dancers of superior technical quality at a world-class level. In fact, Mag Glasgow, one of BP's strongest leads and upcoming dancer Roneldon Yadao will be joining the famous Joyce Boling Dance Theater in Taiwan next season. BP's season, which features a choreographers' showcase to spot new talents, mixed with a full-length ballet and modern classics, has maintained loyal followers.

The Masters

Actor Fernando Josef, the new artistic director of Tanghalang Pilipino, is maintaining the vision of the founding director Felix "Nonon" Padilla, emphasizing artistic excellence. "The remote is the actor's Company, the core of actors who have dedicated their lives to getting a rounded training in acting, script analysis, voice and dance.

He takes pride in the fact that the country is rich with theater masters who are fostering the actors' technique: Obi awardee Lily Ayuman, Dom Milado, Nestor Horfilla from the Mindanao cultural group, Mindanao and new talent Tess Jamias.

"For good actors to bloom, you need intelligent audiences," he says. TP's repertoire for its 33rd season pays homage to women of substance.

Josef recalls that when Padilla left for abroad, the company was apprehensive. Nonetheless, director Lino Brocka maintained, "When the vision is clear, the company will continue its work."

Josef says, "When Brocka died in the early '90s, we held on to his statement."

'Winning-est' Choir

The 48-year-old Philippine Madrigal Singers or the 'Mads' is dubbed as the country's cultural ambassador, reaping awards in international competition. Greek founded by National Artist for Music Andrea D. Veneracion whose life as its choirmaster is immortalized in her memoir "A Life Shaped by Music." In 1988, the Mads became the World's Best Choir when it won its first European Grand Prix of Choral Singing, the equivalent of the Oscars.

When she retired in 2006, the singers voted for Mads Anthony Carpio as the choir master. He has maintained the tradition established by his predecessor. "We still keep the thrice a week rehearsals set by Veneracion. But Mads also likes to work with different pieces. Even if we change batches of singers, the diversity in the repertoire is still there," says Margarita Claudette Galura, international relations officer. The Mads has wowed the world with its range from Renaissance to progressive, from Filipino and international folk songs to top hits, from intellectual pieces to fun songs.

Under Carpio's leadership, the choral group won the grand prizes at the Habanera 7 Polifonica in Spain (2004), Nicolaye de Vaux, in France (2006) and another European Grand Prix of Choral Singing in Italy (2007). "When the audiences listen to us, they feel as if they are in a concert not in a competition," says Galura.

Ultimately, it is the voice that is the life force of these companies. As German author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe puts it, "Whatever you can do or dream begin it! Boldness has genius, magic and power in it."

(LEFT) Mads quartet: Kittsela Pengol, Mara Alva Ferrer, Marvin Ian Sucaldito Matthew Mariano

Band vs. unit: Glasgow with Lucky Visconte and Ronnhem Tadeo

Pandemonium initials behind the BGC Art Facade: Alden Lagrosas, Sandy Hontiveros, Noemie Jamilon, Margarita Claudette Galura, Fernando Josef

"Mabait" characters: Mak Mateo, Carmen Tia Wong (Celeste's of Actor's Co.) and Tagon

Four goddesses: Carissa and Candice Ador, Ea Torralba and Jason

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

How Bert Lozada changed my life /C1

Jewelry scandal rocks Manila

SEVERAL old-rich matrons have been victimized in an elaborate scam by a well-connected person, and the incident has sent shivers down the spines of Forbes Park and the rich enclaves of Cebu, Bacolod and Davao.

The con artist is reportedly the aide of a powerful person, and the lover of the offspring of another.

The scam started a year ago, when the con artists started luring narcos old-guard matrons and greedsters into buying big, cliché jewelry items in abroad in Bangkok and HK. Once the jewelry were bought, the scammers, who claimed to have a buy-and-sell jewelry business, would convince them to pawn with their big, luxurious pieces that they couldn't wear, for their sheer size and style, in public. She would pay post-dated checks.

But the con artist would pawn the jewelry in a very established pawnshop. Here's the rub: The con artist would then sell the claim stub to a third party.

One night, a well-known banker-matron saw some money matron wearing her jewelry. She almost fainted when the matron told her how she acquired the jewelry. Soon after, the victims saw the checks issued them bouncing higher than Otis McKinley Pines.

When two infuriated matrons had the police locate the scammer, the con artist was found conveniently-confined in a posh hospital, with a well-known doctor certifying she was mentally unfit to be interviewed by the police.

A couple of brave matrons have filed criminal and civil cases against the con artist.

More on those 'lollipop lampposts'

When it comes to art or design, the Filipino is high on embellishment but low on concept and function. The street lamps of Manila or Taguig are a good example of the Filipino's high tolerance for bad taste. We asked architects, designers and connoisseurs their opinion on the lollipop-like of lamps.

Albert Avellana, consultant and gallery owner

The lamps in Manila look like lollipops. The ones near Philippine Colombian resemble fish balls or marshmallows skewered on a stick and they come in pastels (similar to those in Tagaytay).

If you go to Pasay, the lamps are diamond shaped. It's a different theme in Pembagsan. It shows bad aesthetics. You feel like you're in an amusement park but you're not amused.

In Bonifacio, the lamps along the Seawall in Rizal Boulevard are simple and solid in the ambience. They also provide proper illumination so you enjoy the view. Paging lighting designers!

Augusto Villalon, architect

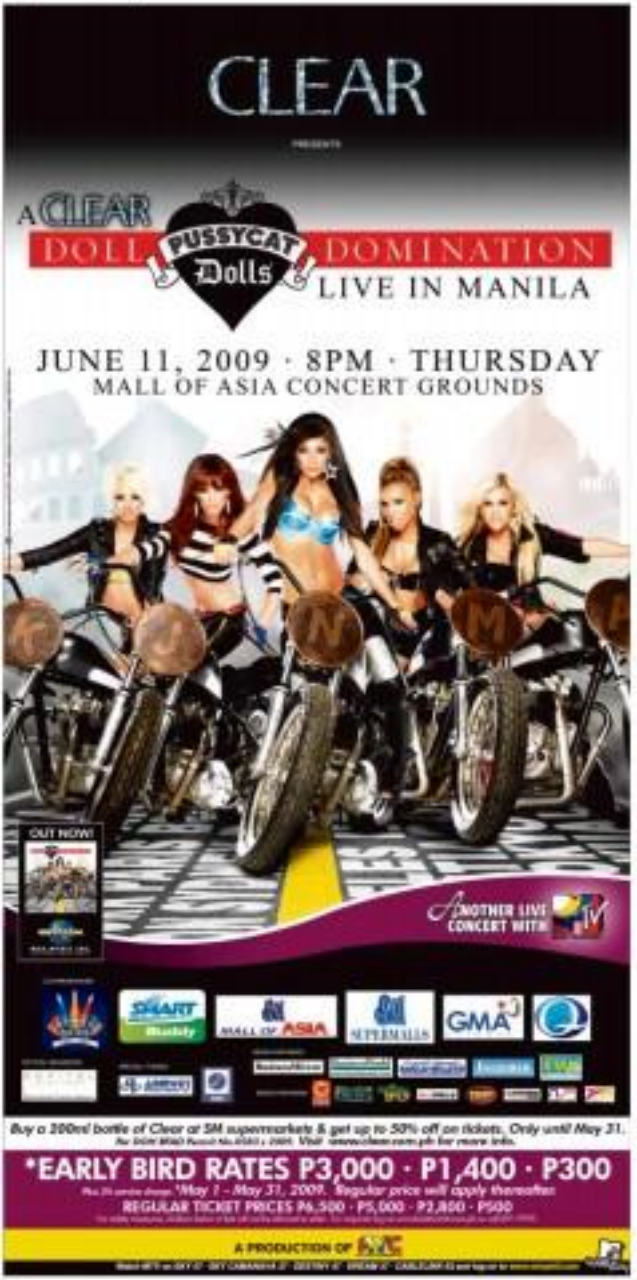
You can have any kind of design. The purpose of the street lamp is to light up the streets. But that doesn't work here. It's funny. I've also seen them in

JOY/LIFE/C2

Jewelry scandal rocks Manila

From page 21

'Manila is textured with history, then suddenly you see these globes that look like 3-D animé'



hideouts. There must be some big factory out there that turns them out by the millions.

Patricia Fernando Regalado, architect:

It's so disco and tempting because the design is out of control. On our way to Binondo on a walking tour, we saw these lamps. Manila is textured with history, then suddenly you see these globes that look like 3-D animé or some that look like adult drawings. It's a culture thing.

Christian Espiritu, designer:

They're too busy for fun.

Helena Carmeda, designer:

They are kinsley but there's not enough of them to light up the streets. They are overly designed which is a Filipino thing—putting more than what's needed.

Edgardo Lardizabal, architect:

It's subjective. What I feel beautiful, others may not. They're not ugly but they can be better designed. Some would design to evoke a little history and be more Filipino. Others would make it Filipino but modern. But the lamps are full of hardship because that's our culture.

In Tagaytay, the lamps look like they belong in Enchanted Kingdom. Maybe it's for the tourists. But the last that duty called, your attention already says that it's different—whether you like it or not.

Claude Tayag, artist and culinary rebel:

The lampposts look like those cheap-looking contraptions in a low-budget sci-fi movie. They're an eyesore, as per today. The idea of lighting the promenade is a great idea, but its proponents should have been more sensitive to the historical aspect of the boulevard, from Malate to Rizal Park. It cost the (poor) Juan de la Cruz a fortune to get them up. There's the perennial worry of our life as a nation.

Fernando Fernandez-Dee, architect:

They don't (visually) enhance or enhance the city. It's sad when you find out a lamp costs P100,000 each, when the actual price is only one-tenth of that. Those lamps look as if Imelda Fernando painted the whole city in pink and blue. Aesthetic is also a function. Something jarring can spoil your mood.

Take a look at Roxas Boulevard. Instead of enjoying the sunset, you see a row of cranes. If only we had good artists who could come up with a brilliant design rather than seeing these plastic lollipops. There has to be some evaluating with the masses. Having educated engineers.

Sardined on Boracay

Philippine tourism is now almost synonymous to Boracay, isolated island. That's how popular this destination is. It's—nowhere is the unplanned growth of this paradise more evident than in its cramped, decrepit airport which has now become one small for visitors' traffic. Nothing could spoil a fun vacation more than being sardined in a humid airport where your flight is delayed, or, worse, cancelled.

Building up local tourist destinations becomes almost futile if domestic air travel tests one's sensory and patience.

Boracay, Cebu, Bohol, Palawan: now have a growing number of high-end, chic resorts, yet flying to these places is far from being a top-of-the-line experience.

'It' destination

Still on Boracay, Shangri-La Boracay is clearly the "it" destination these days. Week after week, the newly opened resort was seen as shown of A-list visitors.

Nope, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie really didn't show up. But another (local) VIP did, with an old lady here.

Bomb threats

Imee and Gregg Araneta had experienced a couple of bomb threats at their residence in Makati. In the first attempt, the bomb did not explode due to clumsy handling. The second time, the bomb exploded on the street right in front of the house. These incidents were unexpected.

Confessions of an accidental celebrity stalker

By Pam Pastor

IT STARTED ON DAY ONE. I WAS killing time at a mall near Los Angeles with Jill and her brother Jud when we stumbled upon an area that had been cordoned off. There were signs all around—"Quiet please. Filming going on." The area had been permanently decorated for Christmas. There was a gigantic Christmas tree with gigantic Christmas balls and giant fake gift boxes with giant fake bows.

The filming was for TV. Which shows, the crew didn't say. We stayed as the young actors toying in figure cut rubes it was. "Isn't that Zac Efron?" I said.

"Maybe. It's one of the Jonas brothers," Jill said.

Then we saw a blonde girl wearing a skirt and boots in the middle of the set. She had her back to us but Jud didn't stop us from trying to guess who she was. "It's Hilary Duff!" we chorused. I kept walking so I could get a look at her face.

"It's definitely not Hilary Duff," I said as I walked back. We decided to leave the interviews to grab lunch.

That was the first of what became a series of brushes with celebrities during a crazy three-week trip to the United States.

Harry Potter on Broadway

A few days later, we were in New York, trying to walk back to the subway when throngs of people blocked our way. They were hanging around outside a Broadway theater, cameras ready. The air was buzzing with their excitement and anticipation. I looked around the crowd and saw even more people there.

"Who are you waiting for?" a baritone voice asked.

"Daniel Radcliffe!" another baritone voice answered.

Apparently, the "Harry Potter" star, who has a big role in the Broadway play "Equus," was about to leave the theater. We thought about waiting to see (could we see him but our orbiting hair refused. At that point, not even Lord Voldemort would have been powerful enough to make us stay.

Hitting the jackpot at Universal Studios

We thought we hit the jackpot when we saw that "Desperate Housewives" was filming the day we went to Universal Studios. We took sharp breaths as the guide asked us to be quiet when we reached Wisteria Lane. But the set was closed and we didn't get to see a single strand of Teri Hatcher's hair.

Later that afternoon, we searched the final show of "Waterworld" at the theme park. As we walked out, I noticed toward the prisoners of the sea. "Look, some of them have been on CSI." But we couldn't recognize any of them. Luckily, it wasn't the last thrill of the day for the "CSI" fans in us.

We were rooting as a Chinese restaurant in Citywalk when Jud said that there was filming going on a few yards away from the eatery. "I'm not sure but I think it's Kylie Minogue," he said.

Jonas we were canoeing in front of the filming location. Jay had played a joke on us. Kylie Minogue was nowhere in sight. I kept scanning the crews moving around, trying to find the lead actress. There I saw them—a man and woman walking in the middle of the scene. The man had that greying hair while the woman had bountiful blonde hair. I'd recognize that hair anywhere.

"Oh, my god, it's Grissom and Catherine Willows from 'CSI Las Vegas!'" I told anyone willing to listen.

But they didn't seem as excited as I was. So I ran back to the cast person I was sure would be breathing with excitement, too—Pill, who is also a huge fan of the show.

> Forget the brave and the free, America is the land of celebrity encounters

Pining Grissom off

When I got there, she was on the phone with her boyfriend, telling him that Grissom was right in front of us. When she ended the call, we tried to figure out if meaning into the middle of the scene to become surprise scene would be worth the sure embarrassment once we were thrown out of the place.

I heard someone say, "Who watches that show anyway?" and resisted the urge to swing his neck. If he doesn't know who the notorious killer is, it's his big fat loss.

All managed to find a perfect spot right behind the main TV camera. I stood there with her and a bunch of other fans, happily taking photos of William Petersen and Marg Helgenberger walked toward us. This was fine, the crew told us, as long as we stayed flash photography.

But someone's flash went off. At this point, they had shot the scene several times but none of them—not the actors, not the crew—seemed satisfied with it. William Petersen seemed to be losing his patience. Each time he walked toward the crew to discuss the scene, he eyed the cameras warily. Finally he motioned toward the camera, complaining about them.

And just like that, flash just-about were put up, blocking our view. We walked away abandoning hopes of having photos taken with them.

Great, just great. Our biggest celebrity encounter yet and we managed to piss the guy off.

Cracking the red carpet

I was already in the US when I received the good news that I had a slot to interview Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe about their latest film, "Body of Lies." But I'd have to watch the movie first at a screening at Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood the day before the interview.

Hours before the screening, my friends and I passed by the theater and saw that the place was being prepped for the event. "Wow, I didn't know I was going to be a red carpet thing," I said. "See that Peter Chenk-le area? That's where I have to be tonight."

But they were skeptical. "If that's where you're supposed to be, why are there huge posters of 'The Express' all over the place?"

"The Express" is a very different movie from "Body of Lies." Football players vs. spies. Denzel Quaid vs. Leonardo DiCaprio.

"I don't know," I said. "Maybe they're trying to throw everyone off."

After the red had set, the scene was in the Chinese Theatre was completely different. There were bright lights, a lot of photographers and even more fans crowded around the red carpet and looking on from across the street, trying to get a glimpse of the actors.

I ran up to a rough-looking security guy and said, "Excuse me, I'm supposed to be in there for press check-in."

"You're mighty late," Security Guy #1 said to me sternly. That was strange. I was right on time. I shrugged it off. He told me to go around the block but the security guy there told me to go through the front entrance. I did and Security Guy # 1 finally waved me through.

Dennis Quaid's family

I found a guy holding a radio at the press check-in table. "The press is already on the red carpet," he said, standing up to help me look for the movie's publicist.

Before I knew what was happening, I was standing on the red carpet. On the red carpet, with the actors, not behind the barricade where the rest of the press was. I looked up and saw that I was surrounded by Alfonso Ribeiro actors. Uh oh. I though with alarm. There are no African-American actors in "Body of Lies."

There, I found one of the security guys speak into his radio. "Dennis Quaid's family is here."

Holy crap. I was at the wrong event.

Funnily, it was Security Guy # 1 who ended up helping me find my way. I grabbed his popcorn and drink and ran inside the dark theater where I had an endless row to myself. All thoughts of "The Express" left my mind as I entered a world of spies, terrorists and a lot of deception.

Face-to-face, finally

The next day, I came face-to-face with Russell Crowe and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Russell Crowe was relaxed and funny—except for that brief moment after a journalist from Europe asked him if he was an angry man. That wasn't a very smart thing to do.

I used up most of my energy that day resisting the urge to ask Leonardo DiCaprio the one question I should not ask him. "I want to pass to saan ginto—why didn't you write me back?"

But he had his own important question. Fifteen years after that time in my life I spent ripping out pages of Bop and trying to decide if I should stick his photo on my wall or keep them safe in my Trapper Keeper, Leonardo DiCaprio was finally standing a few feet away from me. And in the first seconds out of his mouth were, "Can I use the bathroom, please?"

And that was the end of what could have been a great Hollywood romance.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

First Filipina GM of 5-star hotel

DIAMOND HOTEL PHILIPPINES HAS RECENTLY APPOINTED Simone Ledesma Sumergido as general manager of the 500-room, luxury hotel by the bay.

A seasoned hotelier, Sumergido has more than a decade of experience in hotel operations. She was recently the resident manager of a leading international five-star hotel in the metropolis and prior to that, she was area director of human resources for the same hotel. Her promotion to resident manager was the result of her exceptional dedication and hard work, hence, it is no surprise that she assumed the key post in Diamond Hotel Philippines, making her the first Filipina general manager of a five-star hotel category in the country.

Under her helm, her direction for Diamond Hotel Philippines is to continue its commitment to product and operational excellence.

Sun Cellular photo tilt ongoing until May 24

Hundreds of barkadas already registered in Sun Cellular's ongoing "Tilt at All in Sun" photo contest in selected malls in Visayas and Mindanao. Visit Sun Cellular booths in Robinsons Cebu, Ayala and Ilolo, Gaisano South Davao City, People's Park Davao and Limketkai Mall Cagayan de Oro City until May 24, and buy a prepaid Sun SIM or load at least P30 worth of credits. Then get ready to flash them your winning smiles. Make sure you get wacky and LOL in your group shots. The lucky 24 Kodak from every area will be chosen to appear in Sun Cellular's print ad that will be published in the local newspapers. Visit www.suncellular.com.ph or call 333-8888.

2 choral groups in 'Concert at the Park'

Concert at the Park stages Sounds of May today, 6 p.m., featuring Choral Philippines and 4 Cappella Cantabiles, under the direction of Joy T. Nilo. Choral Philippines was founded by choir master-composer Joy Nilo in 2002. 4 Cappella Cantabiles is a choir from Central United Methodist Church.

HOFEX MANAGERS' CONFERENCE
HOFEX 2009 James Lu (right), executive director of Hong Kong Hotels Association, welcomes Atty. Eugene T. Yap (left), general manager of Bayview Park Hotel and representing the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP), to the HOFEX 2009 "Fourth Regional General Managers Conference," held this at Hong Kong Conference and Exhibition Centre.

Photography course

Photowerks, a photography course by photographer and trainer Leo Castillo, will be held at DPX1, Studios, 2227 Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo), and will run for six sessions to give students time to practice their lessons and fulfill their photo assignments. The 49th run of the course is set June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and 28, 7-10 p.m. Registration is P5,900, with an early bird rate of P5,500 if you enroll by May 26. Call 813-1464 or 0929-9041558. Visit www.photowerks-academy.com.

Lawyers' fundraiser

A fundraising concert featuring lawyers will be on May 22, 7 p.m., at the Philamlife Auditorium. "Legal Luminaries and Their Friends" will showcase the talents of lawyers Marivic Gonzalez-Encarnacion and Karina Gay Batiquilla (two professionally trained sopranos), Magdangal de Leon (a former Madrigal Singer and now a janitor at the Court of Appeals), who will perform with his brothers-in-Law (SP Law 12) composed of DOF undersecretary Oscar Pilapil, Atty. Nonie Reyes and Inigo Lloris Jr.; Zenaida Ruth Andaya (Sta. Filipinas- domestic 2007 and now AC-CRALAW senior associate); former Senator Jinky Lina (now Manila Hotel president); Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan (a classically trained guitarist), and Impresario, Antonio Pastor (a classically trained pianist and tenor). Proceeds of the event will go to LAWASS Philippines Inc.

Book club discussion

Prize-winning screenwriter Ricky Lee will be joining the MOBB Book Club's discussion of his runaway bestseller "Para Kay B" on May 30, 3-4 p.m., at Ortigas Foundation Library. Everyone who has read the book is invited to attend this intimate one-on-one with the author and discuss why four out of five of us are destined to be devastated by love. "Para Kay B" is available at major bookstores for P250.

Drawing workshop

The Lopez Memorial Museum will hold a Creative Creation drawing workshop on May 19-20, 10 a.m.–12 noon. Students, ages 6-12, will learn to draw their favorite animals, animals in mythology and combinations of such animals. The workshop is to be facilitated by Joanah Trivio-Gallingo. The workshop fee of P2,500 includes materials. Trivio-Gallingo is a UP College of Fine Arts graduate who has been workshops for the Lopez Memorial Museum, Japan Foundation and St. Scholastica. The Lopez Memorial Museum is at G/F, Benpres Building, Exchange Road cor. Meralco Avenue, Pasig. Call 631-2417 or e-mail edmktglopez-museum.org.

Beauty center launch

Face, body, bathing at the beach. Sponsored by Pagcor-Parañaque, the launching of Tembine Face and Body Care Center and Pink Line General Merchandise, owned by partners Frea Gamboa Llosa and Jenny Salcedo, will be on May 27 at the Tenure Hall of Pagcor-Parañaque. Highlight of the event is a fashion show featuring the Pink Line Corporate Collection by Su Gala and the 30-piece Hip Couture Collection or fashion as tribute. Call 8811-0021/888 or 8831-3433/00.

Online writing course

Basic course on online writing by Palanca Award winner Luis Katigbak will be on June 16, 18 and 23, 6-9 p.m. Workshop fee is P4,000 included of handouts, materials, snacks and certificate. Typographical error included. Participants can bring their own laptop or opt to rent laptops from PAL for an additional fee of P1,000. A down payment of P500 is required to reserve a slot. Deadline for reservations is June 8. A 40-percent discount will be given to those who pay in full on or before June 1. Call 892-1861, text 0911-5615412, e-mail training@philippineliteratureexchange.org, or visit www.filipinaslibrary.org.ph.

Tourism Personality Awards

Cebu Sen. Gwen Garcia, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) Chair Efraim Genuino and Tourism Undersecretary Ernesto Jarque will lead this year's list of distinguished recipients of the prestigious "Tourism Personality Awards" given by the Rotary Club of Manila in cooperation with the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies. The awards will be held May 21, 12 noon, at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. The awards are given to notable individuals who have played a significant part in the growth and development of the tourism industry.

Tennis tournament

The United Tennis Players of the Philippines will hold its Bacolod-ex tournament, the Johnny Arcilla Tennis Classic, May 29-31 at the BF Airsenca Club in Las Piñas City. Johnny Arcilla, PJ Tiaro, Rolando Ruel, Ralph Kevin Bello and Elbert Amanta and Bando Cuppar Pop Salvador and all top PP players will compete. On June 27, the second tournament, Bacolod-ex, will be held at Sunset Boulevard. And on July 27-Aug. 1, it will be held in Lanao del Norte through the sponsorship of Gov. Khalid D. Dimaporo. Call 823-3334/09 8-241 2681/09 b-82 F0644 or visit celebrityexchangephilippines@gmail.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

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TIPID MODE KA BA?
P10 CALL+TEXT COMBO
GOOD FOR 1 DAY
10 minutes of promo calls
40 promo texts
plus 10 texts to other networks
sun CELLULAR PREPAID

Socialites, businessmen join the 'PacManiacs'

STORY ON PAGE F2

INGGO Zobel JIM YLLANA BONG-BONG Marcos BONETO Singson

Socialites, businessmen join the 'PacManiacs'

By Larry Lanicle
Contributor
Photos by Mike Sandoval Sioco

IT WAS ONLY 8 P.M., BUT THERE WAS TRAFFIC gridlock in the four-block radius of the Quezon City mansion of Chavit Singson. It was, after all, the 9th victory bash for the greatest boxer in world history.

Politicians, about his business, Old Guard socialites, PR practitioners, yuppies, preppies, fashion folk, bankers, clerks and foreign diplomats—even Imelda Marcos, Bistro Zobel and Raul Gonzalez—were all there.

For a few hours, they behaved like swooning teenage fans, wide-eyed, wide-mouthed, smiles plastered on their sweaty faces while screaming, pushing and shoving just to have that important photo with the Sheffilan.

TV networks, digital miniature and cell phones all announced their bosses or friends and comedy with Pinkee as they emerged from the hallway and went down to the rented garden with white round tables, the setup resembling a wedding reception.

Chavit escorted the golden couple around as they posed with guests who nodded hemp still at their tables. Within seconds, the scene looked like a pandemonium of flashing bursts as photographers swarmed around Manny and Jinkee, who inched their way calmly forward while nodding, smiling and shaking hands with the rich and even the infamous.

The Pacquiaos handled the hands like Liz Taylor and Richard Burton—classy, gracious and beautiful.

Harem

The VIP table in front of a Plexiglass stage was occupied by exclusive talent manager Annabelle Rama and her pool of GMA-7 stars like JC de Vera and Bubbles Paraiso.

At another table was Ronjon and Lisa Marcos, Charlie Cojuangco and Odie Klebe. Beside them were the media denizens like Cinderella Martinez Belen, Betty Mercado, Dennis Rondero and Johnny Sucaldito.

Not far was basket ball Petrasian with wife and son. There were also Jojo and Betsy Zobian and Lilibeth and Pogoi Gimpao, with former beauty queen and bobbleque Yoli Resurreccion.

Oliver Tolentino, Manila's hot young designer of the moment, chatted with Tessa Duncil, Lulu Tan and Sonia Medina.

Pandemonium

Since I suffer from claustrophobia, I couldn't stand the tsunami pandemonium; I fainted my arms to signal Louie Cruz to save me. He thought I was requiring like a fashion diva.

I fled to the air-conditioned

LISA Araneta-Marcos

DAVID Arabaloza

CHAVIT Singson, Jinkee and Manny Pacquiao, Imelda Marcos

Hot ticket last Friday was Chavit Singson's victory party for Pacquiao

JOJO Zobel

GMA-7 ARTISTS Michelle and Elora Madrigal, JC de Vera

GMA-7's Reggie Magno and Marvin Agustin

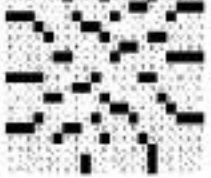
MONCH Cruz

SONIA Mathai, Reyes Pascual and Lulu Tinio

Quota International's Santacruzan raises charity funds

REINA Emperatriz Isabel Garcia with Quota Cebu founder Lydia Ibañez

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



ONCE MORE, THE QUOTA INTERnational of Cebu staged its annual Santacruzan to raise funds for its charity projects. Top priority is given to hearing-impaired children and daycare centers in Cebu's economically depressed areas. It was held once more last evening with a blast of 4 p.m. at the Templo de San Carlos in Mabolo.

Rain poured like the deluge but it cleared for the procession in the Cebu Grand Convention Center where a sumptuous dinner awaited, followed by the coronation rites. Isabel Garcia was crowned Reina Emperatriz by her predecessor Sue Ong and father-in-law Congressman Pablo Garcia, former governor of Cebu.

Agnes Montiel was Reina Elena, crowned by last year's title holders Pamela Abellanosa and Times president Robert Oliver. Husband Greg Durawi presented her with flowers. Agnes was escorted by her son Tyler Amos as Emperador Constantino, crowned by acting Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama and civic leader Rosario de Abejon Unson.

Acting Mayor Rama also crowned Reina de las Flores Ellen Sues Jose, assisted by provincial board member Agnes Magpale. Dr. Ellen Olaivar came from the USA to take her place as Reina del Santuario. A dozen was put on her head by senior Jenaro Reig Jr. Newman and the honorary consul of Spain.

Anna Maria Villanueva was Reina de las Angeles, crowned by producer Trisha Mae Cuizondrea and Professor Jose Bayle from the University of the Visayas.

They all danced to their gowns and

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Piccorel

fauna, surrounded by a court of regalia. Reina de las Flores crowned with Maria Heleine Abalos, Mitos Jordana, Dana Jumalia, and Jolly Strasburg.

Reina de los Angeles had a pretty bride Katrina Medina, Tuchanse Go, Ana Aznar, Allison Hontiveros, Chanelin Hispol, Aria Gargallonar, Christina Burgos and Doreen Pende. Principes in the court of Emperador Constantino were Jason Lopez, Aaron Singzon, Vince Cangcoleman, Bernie Chan II, Dave Orillo, Christian Garcia, Ernedo Ortiz IV, Jose Antonio Matanza and Joshua Balandig.

Congratulated for the immense success of the event was Quota Cebu president Lorna Gelderon, as well as the chair persons—former presidents Ms. Lolita Rubio and Lorna Garcia.

Lydia Ibañez who founded the Cebu Quota in 1977 was present, accompanied by Socorro Godilla, registrar of her school, St. Benedict's, from where came most of the participants. Lydia serves as the club's top advisor and inspiration.

Everyone in Quota Cebu helped in the coronation, especially former Cebu city councilor Jocelyn Pesquera who is current vice president for internal affairs, and the vice president for external affairs Dolor Gaston-Angeles.

Add to them the secretaries Evelyn Ramirez and Clemencia Empleo-Ruiz, treasurers Gesperlita Zulla and Linda Ibañez, auditor Elsa Bustamante, PRO Lilia Fortuna (a former Reina Emperatriz), directors Lourdes Abellanosa, Mercedes Arjona and members who served as chairpersons of various committees Adora Pende, Lilian Loyola and provincial board member Ma. Victoria Lorenzana.

Rigodon de Honor

The evening was climaxed by the presentation of couple dances, rather not only using her experience of top hats, but also hosted the coronation pageant. Highlight was a magnificent Rigodon de Honor for the jokes who were much applauded. This was followed by a waltz by Royal Dance by the crowned queens and their respective escorts.

Featured as one of the VIP tables was Daniel Ruiz, an ace photographer and painter based in Spain. The Department of Tourism had contracted him for the documentation of the Philippine participation in the Expo in Zaragoza last year, and part of the deal was to visit the Philippines.

Before coming to Cebu, he was in Bantayan and Davao. From here, he went to Barangay Bonbongon City and Bohol are on his schedule, too.

The Quota Santacruzan was as colorful as it was fascinating, he commented, and asked if there was something similar in Spain. Yes, in the southern part, concretely in Puente Genil, in the province of Cordoba, part of Andalusia.

Whereas the Quota Club of Cebu named its Santacruzan more than 25 years ago, the third, fourth and

REINA Elena Agnes Montiel with escort Greg Durawi.

fifth Santacruzan were held by the Junior Auxiliary of Cebu more only a few years back, together with the Clothes for Life Foundation of Cebu's top designers.

There was held a week after that of Quota, and that's an altogether different report. Suffice to say that in either event, Marguerite Duallo as Reina Emperatriz, Tricia Gullas as Reina Elena, and Miss Cebu 2009 Rizi Jansen opening the procession as Reina Banderada.

Quota has announced that their Santacruzan 2010 has been set for May 1 (next year, while HIRAC has heralded that Bonbon Sala has accepted their Reina Emperatriz in it. 2010.

IN LOVE FOREVER. Mike Sandro Reza and Louie Cruz

FAIRWAYS. Jaime and Jimmy Magsaka

JULIUS and Shelly Mojica

STILL SEXY. Vivian Velez

LOUIE'S SIBLINGS Candy, Joni and Mario Cruz

POWER COUPLE. Butch and Carina Cruz

PEARL OF THE PACIFIC'S Greg and Marilou Sumon

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER Linda and Adrianne Lee

POLITICAL SCIONS. Alona Montalbano and Mark Villar

FASHION STAR Oliver Tolentino

Louie Cruz rewrites rules of partying

By Larry Levites
Contributor
Photos by Mike Sandro Reza

The guests must be the ultimate decor

IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS NOW AND the town is still abuzz about the lavish blockbuster birthday party of 19-year-old Louie Cruz. "This is the way we threw parties when my parents were alive, there was always attention to minute details as well as a grand master plan," said Louie, son of the late Ambassador JV Cruz.

Louie sets king of Manila's paparazzi in the '90s with his trademark Hedonistic parties that would take over a whole hotel, if not a good stretch of Roxas Boulevard. In the '90s he redefined the nightlife by making Malate the center of the universe via the club Illalia, which set the template for many clubs in The Fort today.

His legendary skills in organizing lavishes and events, such as the memorable Cartier shows and the Calvin Klein Collection, both at the Peninsula, set the standards for today's marketing gigs. Today he is also the producer of coffee table books as well as an agent for anyone who wishes to buy an island.

To demonstrate the secretive formula for a great party, Louie explains the do's and don'ts as well as the importance of venues and menus of a month-celebration. He calls them the Ten Commandments of a Party Planner.

1) Thou shall leave your ego at home, as well as your want to gossip and nitpick. All you need to bring is a sincere smile and comfortable shoes to boogie all night.

2) Thou shall be sure the venue is air-conditioned (forget al fresco) and decorated tastefully (only Blood red roses to spray formations) so the guests become the stimulate party decor. Besides, theme and costume parties are so last century.

Louie chose the penthouse of Discovery Suites, a series of rooms that come after traversing a grand entrance-making stairway. The buffet had its own room, there was a smoking room, and the bar was in the middle of a hallway that led to a small lush room. The waiters and staff wore as gentle and pampering.

3) Thou shall consider the best lighting for a party—baby blue and champagne pink, which will give everyone a glow.

4) Thou must have music to help set up the fierce hormones. Louie had Baby Tenorio, Jessa Zaragoza, Carina Bichel.

5) Thou must realize the guest list should be like salad ingredients. It's all to the mix and balance.

Invite politicians who will rub the shoulder mates, captains of industry who will chat with exotic fiberist, fashion designers and motivator in flirt with the stars of the moment like Carlos Gaztambide and Bryan Destine Mickelland, the first Filipino kayak racer and Manila's No. 1 model.

6) Thou must hire a great entertainer for the evening. Louie got Chris Medina, who's just back from his tour of South America. His singing style and piano playing are electrifying. With cool New Orleans jazz to a disco version of Shirley Bassey's "I Who Have Nothing," There was also the singer Lilibeth Rodriguez who sang like a nightingale.

7) Thou shall invite the oldest members of your family, make them the guests of honor, and don't they will so enjoy and be the last to leave after midnight.

8) Thou must review the market for wines of your red wine to make sure the guests are plotted in the same spirits. Get Ralph Joseph to handle the hard drinks, he has the best selection in town.

9) Thou shall check the sound system; the volume must be lively but must not drown conversations, a lost art that is making a strong comeback. Pick music from all better decades and have a playlist for accessory DJ who can make dancing irresistible. A small dance floor—and sufficient alcohol—is the best combination.

10) You must invite a mass of the dead, as Louie's bash it was BIG! Save friend turned, if you didn't know! Hugs Jean-Jose Romero, who blessed the party with psalms, not prayers. As it was on this earth. As it was in heaven.

GUESTS OF HONOR. Jean Cruz, Ramona Ledesma and Charito Basilio

GAY CABALLEROS. Dr. Toyet Pascual, Erick Dias and Larry Silva

MEZ U. Margie Fernando

SUPERSTAR ENTERTAINERS. Chris Medina and Lilibeth Rodriguez

OUR GANG. Alex Fernandez, Joseph Uy, Jerome Gomez

NORMAN Lara and Cleng Cruz

HEIR JOSEPHO Ramirez

PAIN and Courtney Cancean and Lee Zamora

Sunny matrons in sunset art auction

The bidding for rare art from the Agri Chemicals collection occasions a very tasteful afternoon

TRUST TOYET PASCUAL TO TRANSFORM a fundraising auction by Friends of the CCP into an afternoon of artful enjoyment.

All the personae and matronae were cubist and befriended for the 3 p.m. Le Soufflé affair recently, each one trying to outdo the other in colorful couture, big precious things, and, of course, bidding for art to raise over a million pesos for charity.

The rare artworks were from the collection of Agri Chemicals and the donation came with the stipulation that the proceeds of the bidding should go to the education program of Friends of CCP.

Minerva Timonera and Dolores designer Boysie Villaluz Icasiano, who formed the organizing committee, welcomed the guests led by the still-beautiful Imelda Marcos, who arrived promptly to a rare Ramon Valera tune.

Done with our tour of the paintings, we found the merry soldiers and golden girls huddled downstairs, ready for their portrait to be taken beside their favorite painting.

LIZ Collas

LETTY Hahn and Lulu Cacanando

Each seated decidedly for one's turn. They did friendly banter with photographer Mike Meiza and did even fine primping for a fabulous pictorial.

Take a look at these senior citizens of style and golden girls of taste. Pictures do not lie. Enjoy the gallery of elegant looks.

Larry Levites, Contributor

TESSIE Rodrigo and Karen Pleasant

MINERVA Timonera

ALICE Antonio and Chino Portugal

THELMA Sana

SUZUKI MUSICAL SCHOOL. Enjoy a violin concert by talented young kids from Carmencita Arambulo's Suzuki Musical School on May 30, 5:30 p.m., at the Shang's Grand Ballroom.

Family activities at the mall

SUMMER IS one of the best times to be with your family. Enjoy weekend activities and events at Shangri-La Plaza this month.

The Confucius Institute at the Ateneo De Manila University will hold a workshop for kids where they can learn to create simple subjects using the Chinese brush. Open to participants ages 6-17 years old, this course is set on May 24, 31 and June 7. Limited slots available.

A Media Concert is set on May 30, 5:30 p.m. at the Grand Atrium. The show features 40 young students from Carmencita Arambulo's Suzuki Music School.

CHINESE PAINTING LESSONS AT THE SHANG. The Confucius Institute of Ateneo de Manila University hosts Chinese painting lessons for kids on May 24, 31 and June 7.

For inquiries, call 8337881 loc 113.

Singapore's Philippine Embassy welcomes San Lorenzo Ruiz

ARCHBISHOP ROBERT GO and his wife Ayen Lim Go welcomed San Lorenzo Ruiz at the Changi Airport when they brushed Pancho Pimentel off last May 5, Tuesday. Gina Lambin Espinosa and her daughters, who were visiting Hotel Gen Sy in the same building, were able to join in the prayer welcoming him.

The following morning, San Lorenzo Ruiz was brought to the Philippine Embassy in Nassim Road where Ambassador Minda Cruz, Labor Attaché Annabel Olivares, Consul General Ted Saperad and the staff welcomed him. Fr. Angel Lantano, chaplain of the Filipino community in Singapore, blessed the image. He later celebrated a Filipino Mass at the Newton Church of St. Alphonsus, where Fil. Ipinos pray to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Ambassador Enrique Manalo of Schosia, Korea Starts told me that the Filipino Mass to celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. He initiated this in 1998 when she was still a chancery lawyer. Manang Rosie, as everybody calls her, is now assistant to the Overseas Workers Welfare Association (OWWA) office in Singapore.

According to Ambassador Cruz, there are at least 150,000 Filipinos in Singapore: 60 percent are OFWs and 40 percent are professionals. She says they have a cohesive Filipino community there. The Embassy served

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Lanuza

ing to love, is on a 24-hour alert in the positions of documents. A caretaker lives there and in any hours of the night, it is open to anybody in distress who comes to ask for help. The Filipino Center serves as a shelter for those with problems. San Lorenzo Ruiz will be brought there during the week where Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Bo gal.

Philippines-Singapore relations

Filipinos are valued in Singapore, hedging by what we did Lucky Plaza on Orchard Road. Relations between Singapore and the Philippines began as early as 1974 when Lee Kuan Yew made a state visit to Manila. then President Ferdinand Marcos visited Singapore in turn in January 1976.

In the coffee-table book published by Ambassador Jesse Yabes in 2002, Asean secretary general Rodolfo Severino Jr. wrote that these relations permeated from the two countries' complementary economies.

He said, "Singapore, with its genius for organization, superb leadership, dedication to excellence and relentless pursuit of its strategic objectives, and the Philippines with its vast pool of human talent, cultural vibrancy and creative flair" complements each other. This year, the two nations will mark their 40th anniversary of friendship.

The joint exhibit of a Brazilian, French and Filipino artist in the premises of Michiels Alfonso at the Royal Plaza on Scotts Road is a testament to this interplay of talents. Newscaster Rica Hizon of the BBC interviewed it.

Our Lady of All Nations

In preparation for Pentecost Sunday, the novena to Our Lady of All Nations begins on May 23 and ends on May 30. Day of Prayer is May 31. The novena prayer can be accessed at www.mariamediatrix.com. This is Our Lady's latest world action of redemption.

In Metro Manila, Day of Prayer will be held May 23, 1pm p.m. at the Chapel of St. Joseph in UCMaS, Greenhills.

Mary Help of Christians

Fr. Larry Tumacder, SDB, is coming devotees of Mary Help of Christians in a Holy Mass on May 15, 6pm p.m. at Don Bosco in Mandaluyong. Celebrant is Fr. Abel Maldemayer, SDB, who is a missionary in Port Moresby, New Guinea. The purpose of the Mass is to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to help seminarians who cannot support themselves through donations. Don Bosco is located across the market on Boni Avenue. Father Lorenz Dilao can be also Victor Salesi.

Books needed

My good friend, Bob Alcine, who is a volunteer in the Valley on Don Bosco, wrote to say that the library needs recondi tioning, but most of all, there is need for more books. He wrote: "Aside from the requisite educational, reference and vocational books, we would welcome books on the lives of saints, children and adult Bible stories, Christian living, the various aspects of Church history, religious life, missionary life, etc. Books should target boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 16."

Bob said the books could be either new or slightly used. Those interested to donate books or help for the remodeling of the library can text Bob at 0915-4459317.

Talay sa Don Bosco

Years ago, Fr. Rocky Evangelista, SDB, converted a horse plot of land into a thriving community of 200 former street children. The kids are provided food, clothing, healthcare and shelter, as well as schooling and superb vocational training in several marketable trades. Today's population stands at 600, if you include non-residential kids from depressed areas who go there for schooling.

6-day workshop on stress management

EVERYONE WANTS GREATER success, better health and peace of mind. What keeps us from achieving these qualities in our life is stress.

The degree to which stress interferes in our lives is grossly underestimated. The mind often clings on to anger, guilt and regrets about the past or misery about the future. This worrying mind creates tension and stress both for ourselves and for people around us.

The Art Of Living that I Course teaches powerful breathing techniques and life changing wisdom, helping us to release mental, emotional and physical stress—making us calm and centered in these fast-paced modern times.

Art of Living will conduct a six-day workshop until May 23.

ROSANNA Readers recommends the Part 1 Course for everyday stress management.

The sessions will be held at Tiara Oriental Hotel near Makati Stm Office and Pier 1st. Call: 0917-5279466 or 0917-7916198 or visit www.artofliving.org.ph.

HK theme park launches new attractions

OCEAN PARK HONG KONG RECENTLY launched its two new attractions—Amazing Asian Animals and Ocean Express.

The new developments are part of an ongoing $750-million master redevelopment plan that will take Ocean Park to a new level as a world-class theme park of new generation, with educational and entertainment facilities.

"We were ranked in the most recent global theme park research as the world's 15th, Asia's fifth and China's number one theme park. Our mission is geared to our ability to provide what is relevant to the market and at the same time to create wonders to our founding mission, which is connecting guests with nature by creating unique 'edutainment' (coined term for education and entertainment) with strong conservation values. As such, the launch of the first two rides, with multiple attractions, marks an important milestone in the park's history," said Tom Mehrmann, Ocean Park chief executive officer.

Opened last April 30, Amazing Asian Animals consists of eight key conservation attractions. Giant Panda Adventure serves as the centerpiece of this intricately designed ecological attraction, as it moves as a home to the precious giant pandas. To provide the best natural living environment for the endangered Asian animals, the main attraction was built using ultra-low emission diesel-electric (ULEDE), the same building material used for the exterior of the National Aquatics Center (the Water Cube) in Beijing.

Aside from the giant pandas, guests also get a chance to see other exotic animals such as the red pandas, wild pandas, endemic Chinese giant salamanders, native Asian small-clawed otters, Chinese alligators—known locally as the "earth dragon," and a dozen species.

The Amazing Asian Animals also features the Goldfish Treasure, a mixed-show exhibit that presents the world's largest goldfish collection in a theme park. The exhibit includes an impressive display of more than 300 varieties of goldfish that come in various shapes, sizes, and colors.

Ocean Express, on the other hand, is equipped with three exposure systems. Two supersize cars used for the world famous cable car, while one will be used for the new futuristic train. All three systems will effectively transport the over five million guests across the sprawling theme park. Operating by the fall of 2009, Ocean Express is expected to carry up to 30,000 guests per hour as it crosses the Ocean Stadium (currently known as "Headland") area in just three minutes.

Daring to ask has its rewards. That's why year after year, our reporters, artists and photographers have been recognized by the most prestigious journalistic groups.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ He gave up an eng'g job for photography—and beetle collecting /p14

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

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'Keep life simple–and keep a few friends'

Your grandpa is still unbelievably conservative, but I have learned to respect your mothers' choices, their beliefs, their ways of life

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

DEAR EMMAN AND KEYA,

As I write this, I am listening to Bach's Partita No. 3, and its playful, unpredictable, poignant mood allows me to reflect and express my thoughts as a 66-year-old grandfather.

I shudder to think that your decade is not the best time to be born in. The world is threatened by the effects of climate change and you will enter school when Big Businesses here and abroad are having the worst time of their lives.

Indeed, the economy is bad worldwide, but what comes? We enjoyed watching "Kung Fu Panda" together and I think your misunderstood character has happened to my life.

But you have to know where you came from.

I became a father at 27 and what (at least) seven years your mothers were schooled and raised in under different circumstances.

Keya, your mother went through (long) elementary and secondary levels in the public schools, and was an early achiever. She was First Honor from Grade 1-6, and she graduated valedictorian from the biggest high school in the world (Ilaya) High School.

She was a college scholar and graduated cum laude from Ateneo de Manila University, and finished her master's degree in the same school.

She taught, on top of other assorted jobs outside the academe. Keya, she was your mother's choice.

Harrowing years

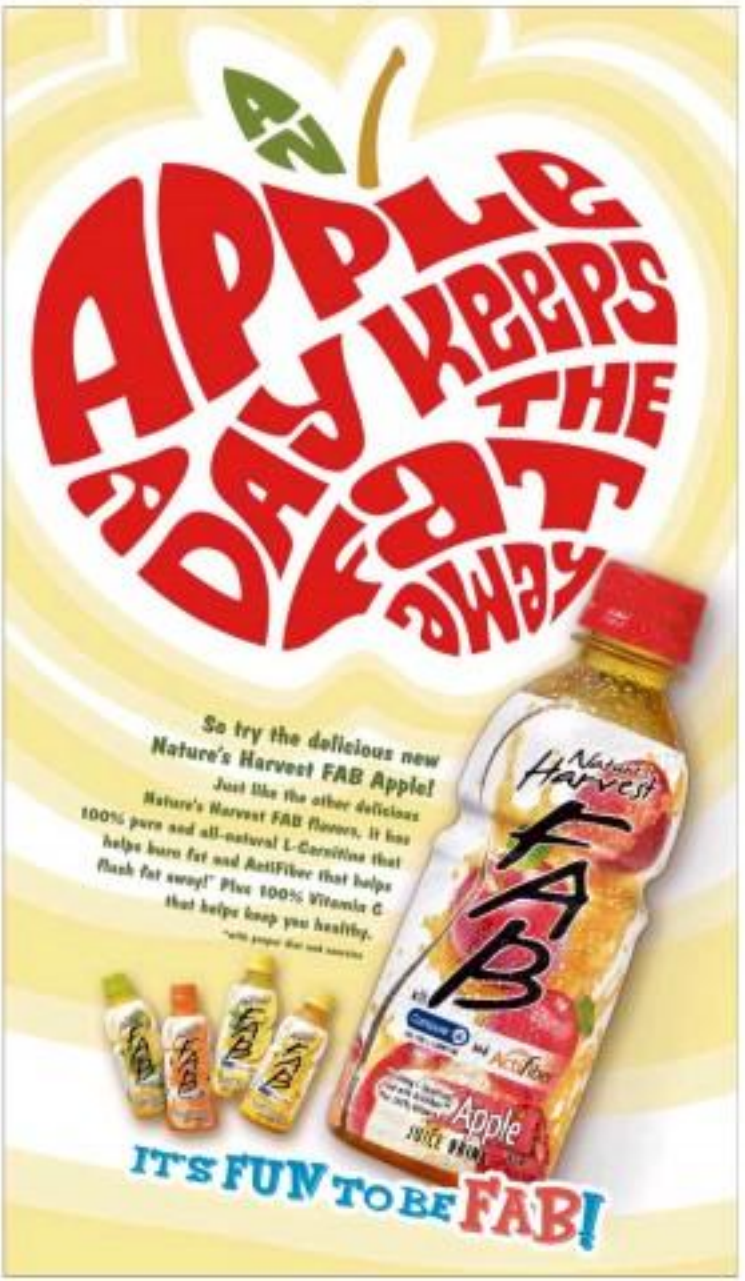
Emman, your mother went through more or less the same schooling, getting various honors, but skipped (Ilaya) High School to be an Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling, major in Creative Writing.

She walked barefoot on the stage to get her medal on graduation and delivered a poems instead of a valedictory address, which impressed the graduation speaker, actress Boots Anson-Roa.

She proceeded to University of the Philippines, worked at the Collegian, and, just a couple of years before graduation, disappeared. She was soon found in the jungles of Isabela, fighting in an armed en-

NEXT PAGE

THE AUTHOR with grandchildren Emman and Keya



BACANI-JAVELOSA NUPTIALS

Unexpected beginnings, happy endings

CARLOS and Kimberly Bacani

THE GROOM with his family (clockwise from left): Melissa, Trevor and Nikki, Alberto and Samantha

THE RAINS DID NOT STOP POURING in Bacolod City that first week of January, dampening preparations for the wedding of Carlos Bacani, son of former Agriculture Secretary Sonny C. Bacani and Yolanda Festa Bacani, and Kimberly Javelosa, daughter of the late Mayor of Silay City Restituto Javelosa and Imelda Montelibano Javelosa. Not old to persevere himself, and friends from joining the couple to the ordeal for the celebration.

On Jan. 3, Caloy and Kim finally had their church wedding in the bride's hometown of Bacolod City Negros Occidental. It was a fitting culmination to the couple's five-year friendship and romance that started in 2003.

Where they met

The couple met when they were working for Nestlé Philippines. Kim graduated from De La Salle University and Caloy from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Upon Caloy's return from his MBA in the US in September 2008, Kim immediately took care of planning the wedding within three months. But the bad weather and unforseen circumstances forced them to change the venue from San Isidro Labrador Church to Sts. Clara Chapel, and the reception from The Bistro to Negros Occidental Golf Club (Manapla)—all happening just a day before the wedding.

However, as the saying goes, "All's well that ends well," the wedding turned out to be a successful and memorable affair. This was especially made possible by the couple's florist and decorator, Vivien "Bong" Villanueva of Vivian 'n' Francesca, who turned both the chapel and the reception hall into a beautiful setting.

Perfect venue

The Sts. Clara Chapel, known for its beautiful altar, its mural of Riches hung hanging and its chandelier all made of shells, proved to be the perfect venue for the wedding Mass and ceremony. It also complemented the bride's beautiful and intricately laced gown made by Patrice Barton-Dinc, who also made the gowns for the entire entourage in various shades of teal and gold.

The food, catered by local favorite Tita Nena's Catering, was a sumptuous feast that guests thoroughly enjoyed. This was topped off by great coffee and delicious desserts which were specially made by Kapepe—a popular café in Bacolod City.

The couple's family and friends, some coming all the way from Manila and the US, were in full attendance. It was a night filled with joy and happiness, topped by a beautiful display of fireworks prepared by Fernando Hernandez and all-night dancing with the band, lights and sounds provided by Prado's Studio.

WITH THE BRIDE'S family: Kevin, Susan, the couple's daughter Samantha, Kent and Jojo Javelosa with son Tom

WITH THE PRINCIPAL sponsors: Undersecretary Renee Bacani, Mayor Alfredo Marañon Jr., Ferdinand Marañon, Rimplicio Javelosa Jr., Jaime Lopez, Rhein Javelosa; (from rear) Judena J. Yan, Sonia Sarmiento, Alda Marañon, Sr. Mary Regina Pil, Dolores T. Fonte, Trinitas M. Cleo

Job and Alice Robas prove marriage can last

By Sharon Robas-Macawili

THE GOLDEN couple with the whole family

JOB AND ALICE Robas celebrating 50 years

ADMIT, 29 IS A VERY IMPORTANT DAY for me not only because it is the wedding day of my parents, Job and Alice, but also because there are many special events in my life that happened on this date.

I had my First Communion on the day of my dad and mom's silver wedding anniversary in 1984. Imagine, I had my own cake and hoodoo nuts to my parents' and the three of us were invited into the altar while the crowd inside the church looked on.

Then in 2006 I got married on, you guessed it right, April 29. I find it sweet to share the same wedding date with my parents.

And this year, we are truly blessed to celebrate my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. It was indeed a day of thanksgiving, especially to this day and age when very few married couples are able to celebrate such a milestone. So what officiating priest Fr. Mario Solmoyanin, SDB said in his homily, celebrations like this "proves that marriage can last."

Love story

My parents' love story started in their college days at the Southern University. Dad, who was then the corps commander of the university's ROTC, was smitten by this fun lovin' Ilonggo named Alice. Although Dad's military-like demeanor didn't quite impress mom, as the cliché goes, love conquered all. In fact, Dad, whom we fondly call Daddy Bing, as loved one would be more that he didn't push through with his plans of joining the Army because she didn't like the idea of him being assigned to different places as part of his job.

So they got married and started to build what would become a big family. Due by our city Fiesta cause, all seven of them. Yes, enough to form a basketball team. But what's a team without a name? So there came us, the youngest and only girl.

And like any other couple, our parents have their own petty (and big) fights and misunderstandings. (Confession: I know because I stayed with them the longest before I went to Manila for college. I also slept in the same bed with them for years when I was a kid ... okay, until almost sixth grade.)

Alright, plus that one instance when I squeezed myself between them when I got very afraid of the thunder one stormy night in high school, or was it early in my college years?)

Inspiration

Seeing parents who've stayed together through thick and thin after all these years only keep us all stirred. Their faith in God and love for music are also an inspiration. They used to be both active in our church choir and were also the movers behind the Cursillo movement in our parish.

They had experienced the most trying times in their lives when in 2003, my fourth brother, Jayo Eric, passed away after a lingering illness. And just when they're slowly coping with the loss, my eldest brother, Jojo Elena, passed away in 2005. I saw in them the faith and strength I could never imagine they would have at their ripe age.

Today, they are the proud Daddy and Mama of 13 grandchildren. Have we've all married, they are our source of inspiration and motivation to keep building a happy family life.

Daddy Bing and Mommy Alice, we wish you many years of love, joy and laughter. We love you very much.

MAGBAG-PISCO

Erlinn Q. Magbag, son of Engr. & Mrs. Silliverio G. Magbag, recently wed Abigail B. Pasco, daughter of Engr. & Mrs. Estelismo R. Pasco Jr., at the Parish of St. Michael the Archangel. Participants were held at the Aguinaldo Hall, in Greenhills and Leisure Park. The bride wore a Mio Barbosa gown.

RAMBALAN-BALTERO

Francis I. Rambalan, son of Jorge L. Rambalan and Rose I. Rambalan, and Cledelle D. Baltero, daughter of Edwardo A. Baltero and Gracia D. Baltero, tied knot March 28 at Sts. Clara de Montefalco, Silay City.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO Box 2332, Makati Central Post Office, 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required. If the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and we reserve the right to edit articles.

ONG-VILLARICA

Jerson S. Ong, third son of Jose and Conchita Ong, married Ayla Hadley Lynne R. Villarica, eldest daughter of Atty. Renaty Villarica and Lizabeth Ruth Villarica, at the Shrine of St. Therese, Villanueva Antiques. Dinner followed at Hotel Infini Ballroom.

MENDOZA-MAI

Arthur Ryan E. Mendoza recently tied the knot with Anna Tuan Mai at Five Wounds Church, 1375 East Santa Clara St., San Jose, California. Reception followed at the San Jose Museum of Art, 110 South Market St., San Jose, California. Arthur Ryan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mendoza of Quezon City and California, USA, while Anna is the daughter of Peng The Mai and Kim Wai Da of Vietnam and California, USA.

AMBROSIO-PATING

Lina Tiarest Ambrosio, member of the Philippine Madrigal Singers, recently tied the knot with Henry Pacilla Pating at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. Lina wore a mechanic gown created by Bonnie Villanueva. Reception followed at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

Be a 'Noticer' —acknowledge the good people in your life

"LET US BE GRATEFUL TO PEOPLE WHO make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."
—Marcel Proust

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gutierrez

I'm an optimist. No matter how difficult a situation is, I always try to find the ray of light that breaks through the clouds, and in whatever way through the darkness until I get to the other side.

That resiliency, I believe, is in my gene pool. I come from a long line of women who have managed to raise families single-handedly through difficult times, and yet found the ability to laugh and smile on the blankest of days.

It also comes from choosing to be grateful. Researchers, I once read somewhere, have found that people who actively try to become more grateful in their everyday lives are happier...not an enormous breakthrough—than those who don't.

Among the books I picked up on my last trip to San Francisco was "The Noticer" by Andy Andrews. Andrews is an inspirational speaker who has counseled four US presidents and spoken in military bases worldwide. He is also a New York Times best-selling author for "The Traveler's Gift".

Universal

His latest book addresses problems universal to humanity and offers solutions in bite-size yet effective pieces. From people who have lost their dreams, to marriages in crisis, to the problems of business and the hopes and fears of teenagers, these problems are common to us.

A quick and enjoyable read, "The Noticer" dispenses wisdom that's not really new. However, Andrews is a masterful storyteller who manages to weave the lessons seamlessly into his narrative, making the reader view the lessons in a new light and appreciate them more deeply.

The book's lead character is an elderly man named Jones, a.k.a "Noticer"—one who sees things other people normally do not see or just take for granted. Jones gives the gift of a new perspective via the lives of people he encounters in a small town.

Similarly, each of us has had at least one person who has impacted our lives for the better. And often, that acknowledgment becomes a reference or turning point in our journey.

Jones says at the beginning of the book, "Your time on this earth is a gift as he aren't wisely then squander your words or your thoughts. Consider every the simplest action you take, for your lives matter beyond measure...and they matter forever."

Along with the book's publication, Andrews also established The Noticer Project (www.thenoticerproject.com), a movement that encourages us to step outside our busy schedules and avoid waiting for a wedding, graduation or even a funeral to take notice of the special, influential people in our lives.

By noticing others who have made a difference in your life, you not only acknowledge their contribution but also gain a new perspective on your own journey.

Affirmations

Halfway through the book, I stopped to think about the five most influential people in my own life. I found myself rendering all the way back to my elementary school days and thinking about the teachers who helped shape my passion for the written word.

Sadly, one of them has passed away. The other four people, though, are still very much around, and I hope to be able to "notice" their contributions in my own life and thank them for their wisdom.

Andrews says there are no dear-cut rules on how you must "notice" those on your list, but here are a few ideas:

- Take a friend or family member to lunch or coffee.
- Write a letter to an old friend or an old teacher or boss.
- Make a phone call to that person who impacted your life but you never got to thank.
- Make a donation to a charity in the name of someone you respect.
- Plan a weekend away with a group of friends who have made an impact in your life.

All-inclusive, when sincerely and freely given, is much appreciated, whether you are a child or an adult. A little gesture goes a long way nowadays. The simple act of being a Noticer—to your friends, family, colleagues, even to someone you have just met, and choosing to be grateful for that person or that blessing...will help make this world a little brighter.

Happy Sunday!

E-mail the author at cathy.babao@gmail.com.

She's blindly in love with a Muslim 17 years her senior

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I am getting married next month to a man 17 years my senior. He's a businessman from Qatar who supplies Iraq with goods and medicines. I work in a pharmacy in the UAE and I met him on one of his business trips to our company.

His wife discovered our relationship and she texted me to stay away from her husband. I was not affected by her threats.

I am so in love with him and I am ready to face the consequences. I want my kids to have a brighter future.

A Muslim can have up to four wives provided he treats them equally.

I will be his second wife if we get married. He has five kids. My family knows about our relationship and believes I am old enough to decide for myself. My parents are devout Iglesias ni Cristo members. I have friends who are not in favor of his religion/age.

The telephone is our only means of communication.

The problem is I can't be with him as much as I want to. We have time for each other only three or four times a year since he is a very busy man and I live in Qatar with his family. I am not sure if I am ready to have him divide his time between me and his family. Also, people are thinking that I love him only for his money. I am not sure, too, that I will be his last, since he is allowed to marry two more.

CONFUSED

Accept yourself and be your life—overwhelming adultery amid a Muslim context? Don't be too cocky to brush away the dictum of this wronged wife. Never mind if their men are allowed four wives. You are one of their society, and she may easily cause trouble for you. You're a foreigner who's breaking up a marriage.

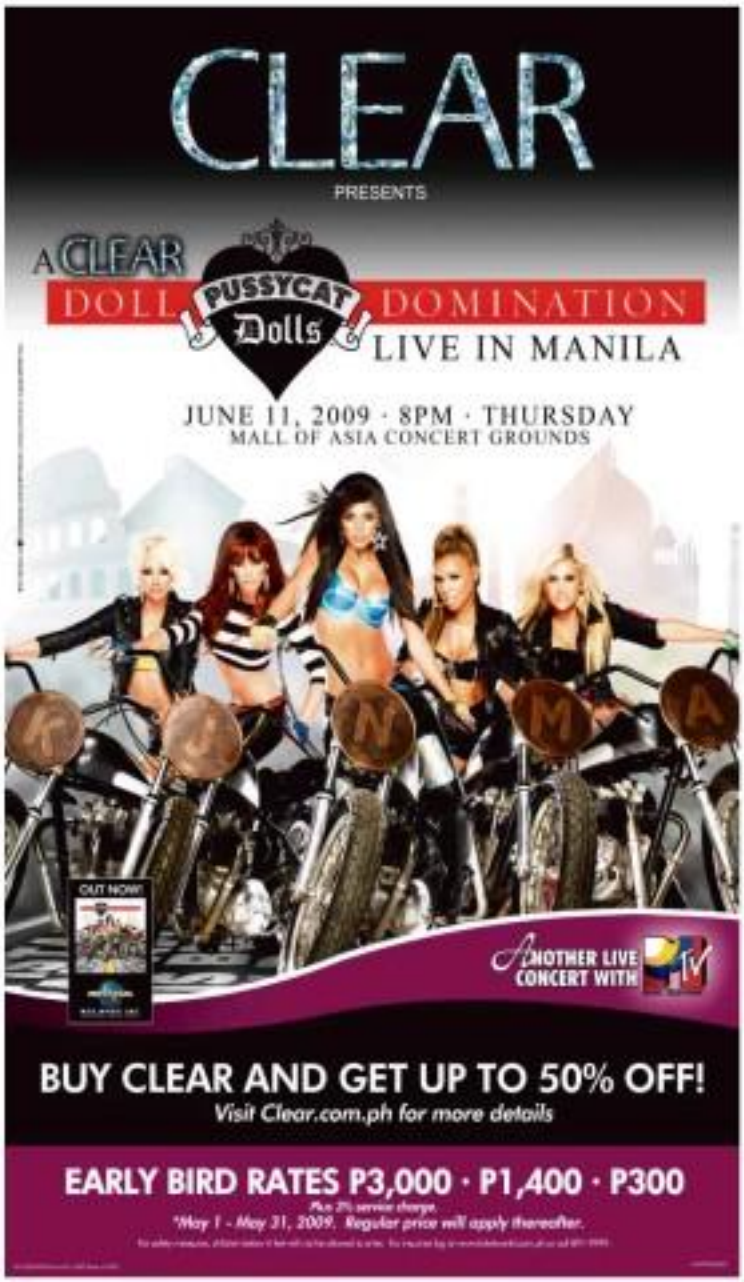
Love is great and wonderful but don't say anything irrelevant you'll have to backtrack before you reach the promised land.

Talking to this guy on the phone (that is) and seeing him there or four times a year don't constitute into a strong relationship. It is always going to be value and cents between you two because you see each other so rarely that every meeting becomes a torrid affair—a never-ending honeymoon. No lasting arguments about bills or debts.

How long before he finds the bit third wife? Don't be blinded trying to provide for the "brighter future" of your unborn kids. Analyze your situation before jumping into the unknown.

Haven't you heard, "Better safe than sorry?" Is your head worth losing—literally?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Ciphertic, or send your letters to Inquirer, Lay on to www.philo.com.ph and listen to Mr. Marcelo on host the program "Balitaan Ng Isaan," 7:25-8:00 p.m., Monday-Friday on dzBB 306 AM.



New wing makes mall the world's third largest

SM NORTH EDSA invite forward to opening the Skygarden, which offers another exciting and environmental element to the mall complex. SM Prime has also launched SM City Marikina, the SM Megamall Bridgeway and SM City Rosales, and will open SM City Baliwag in December.

THE SM NORTH EDSA ANNEX, RECENTLY opened, adds 90,000 sq. m. of gross floor area to the main mall, which is located at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue in Quezon City.

With The Annex, SM City North Edsa's GFA expands to 425,000 sq. m., making it the country's largest shopping mall, surpassing the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City which has a GFA of 407,000 sq. m.

In terms of global ranking, SM City North Edsa now becomes the third largest shopping complex. SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall and SM City Cebu rank fourth, seventh and eleventh, respectively. All three malls have occupancy rates of over 95 percent.

SM Prime president Hans Sy said, "Our expansion of SM North Edsa is reminiscent of its ambitious beginnings. Back in 1985, it was the largest and the only mall of its kind with a GFA of 120,000 sq. m. It was launched at a very challenging period in the country's political history. This year, amidst serious global challenges, we open The Annex at the SM North Edsa. This speaks of how we view the longer-term prospects of the country."

The Annex at SM North Edsa consists of six floors and a basement area. Its major tenants include Savemore Supermarket, Ace Hardware and SM Cyberzone. Other mall tenants include fashion retailer Charles & Keith, watch and jewelry shop Cheyanne, infant store Baby & Company, and electronic shops Power Mac Center, Sony Style, HTC and Belkin, among many others.

It is estimated that The Annex at SM North Edsa provides employment to close to 5,000 people, which includes those mall tenants employees.

'Keep life simple...'

From page 6B

counters with the military, which claimed to have found several Australians in your mother's possession.

She was charged with illegal possession of firearms and spent 14 days in jail while awaiting the court decision for a petition for bail. This episode was the headlines and primetime TV news for a few months. This episode saw me traveling from Manila to Cabugao, Ilocos, and back, every month for two and a half years, to attend the hearings. Those years were difficult, almost harrowing. But I didn't complain. This was your mother's choice.

Because, I went to your mother's interview in "relieved" plays at UE and, Kenya, I enjoyed your mother's Ilona as tonight at Aurora in Ateneo's Revelation. The one I could not bear to watch was "Regina Monologues."

Your mother understood my begging off. Your grandpa is still unbelievably conservative after watching this one for over 30 years.

On the whole, though, I respect your mothers' choices, their beliefs, their dreams, more of life. Probably because they did better in school than I did, and because they learn values there individual happiness lies.

When you come of age, you should carve your own life and find time to understand other people's choices, including your mothers'.

Contrasting lifestyles

Kaya, to your mother, motherhood is a gift from heaven but marriage is not of the question. When I learned she was pregnant with you, I told her to just raise my grandchild well and be happy without a man in the house. She expressed me as rather bull and insist on a shotgun marriage, but I did none of that.

Looking at the way she raised you in the last five years, I swear she is a better mother than some of the married mothers I know, and probably more humane and sensitive than the church-going type.

In the end, your mothers' choices explain the way you live now. You were brought up speaking English, studying in private nursery and kindergarten, taking violin lessons (courtesy of your Grandma Betty), spending Christmas in Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia.

Before your recent relief trip to South Africa, I attended your cousin Emman's kindergarten graduation from the public school where your mother started. We celebrated in a nearby fast-food chain, then went swimming and boating in a public park and resort. I bet your cousin will never get a passport and travel abroad until he has grown up.

Kimmars, don't be irritated when Kaya speaks in English and you don't, I know you understand every word she is saying.

Kaya, be more understanding when Emman shows a tendency to translate you in a foreign language. You were brought up differently by members of different beliefs and lifestyles.

I assure you that though they differ in a lot of things, your mothers sincerely love each other without reservation.

Kaya, your mother, already an Ateneo teacher, accompanied Emman's mother in the Isabela detention jail during a visit, just to have a feel of how it was. They were that close. Despite our have contrasting beliefs and lifestyles and still like and respect one another.

Basic values

I have no reasons to teach, only a few advice to spare. First, accept people for what they are. Second, I guess is prayer to keep a few friends, avoid the kind who will write "untold stories" when, by chance, you become famous.

Keep a few possessions, but avoid most expensive things. Don't blame anyone, much less the heavens, if your abode remains modest and without the mind-boggling possessions of best-office spaces and sweetness show-boats.

Keep life simple, although living up to everyone's expectations is complicated. I am no perfect father and grandfather and has very little control of to impose. At the moment, the most luxurious treat I have given you was a visit to Dream Park, where for the cheer of us I happily lost a fortune (the equivalent of nothing into the two articles).

I get to the age knowing it's good to acquire a few basic values (respect, resourcefulness, hard work). When you don't live up to them, reflect and find out where you went wrong and start all over again.

I can think of no better lesson to teach you than to try to always find the good in people and not the bad.

As the cliché goes, nobody is perfect. Certainly not your grandfather in some stage of my life, I was intolerable. I have made mistakes and I am sure you will make yours. Whatever they are, try to learn from them.

You can see from my stance that the phrase "perfect father and good provider" hardly applies. I consider me far from "ideal."

But maybe you can be! Reach out for perfection and keep trying – not to win awards but to live up to your soul self.

All my love,

Papa

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SM city
The SM City North Edsa Experience
on Page 3

Rajo, Rhett, Randy at CCP

EVEN AFTER YEARS IN THE LIMELIGHT, FOREMOST FASHION designers Rajo Laurel, Rhett Eala and Randy Ortiz felt overwhelmed as they stepped onstage at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines last Sunday. It didn't matter that the Main Theater was empty, except for them and the buyers photographer. "Standing on that stage, before the HB Ocampo curtain, was enough to give an goosebumps," Laurel recalled the moment in that renewed institution.

The three were doing the publicity shoot for the buy-one Lifestyle fashion show with honoring, dubbed "Face Off," set June 23, the month of the National Artists. For the first time, contemporary fashion designers will stage their collections at CCP. (The only other designer who paraded his collections at CCP was Pitoy Moreno, in his retrospective.) "Face Off" is also supported by HBIC, the Inquirer and L'Oreal.

A Recipe for the Perfect Wedding Cake

At this very moment, countless June brides must be planning the details of their dream wedding. Undoubtedly, one of the most prioritized aspects of the after-ceremony festivities is the very centerpiece of the reception itself – the wedding cake. After all, it is a well-known saying that only two things are remembered about a wedding: how beautiful the bride was, and how magnificent the cake looked.

It appears that even future grooms have grudgingly acknowledged this truism, as evidenced by the growing number of gentlemen who actively assist their fiancées in the cake-selection process. Of course, an added bonus to this is the bonding time shared between the happy couples, as well as providing a sneak peek at their decision-making dynamics.

Metaphorically speaking, however, soon-to-be newlyweds would be well-advised to adhere to the following recipe for the **Perfect Wedding Cake**:

Ingredients:

- 4 lbs. of love
- 1 lb. butter of youth
- 1/2 lb. of good looks
- 1 lb. sweet temper
- 1 lb. of blindness for faults
- 1 lb. of self forgetfulness
- 1 lb. of good natured wit
- 1 lb of child-like humor
- 2 tablespoons of sweet argument
- 1 pint of rippling laughter
- 1 wine glass of common sense
- 1 oz. modesty

Procedure

Put in the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house.

Beat the butter of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults.

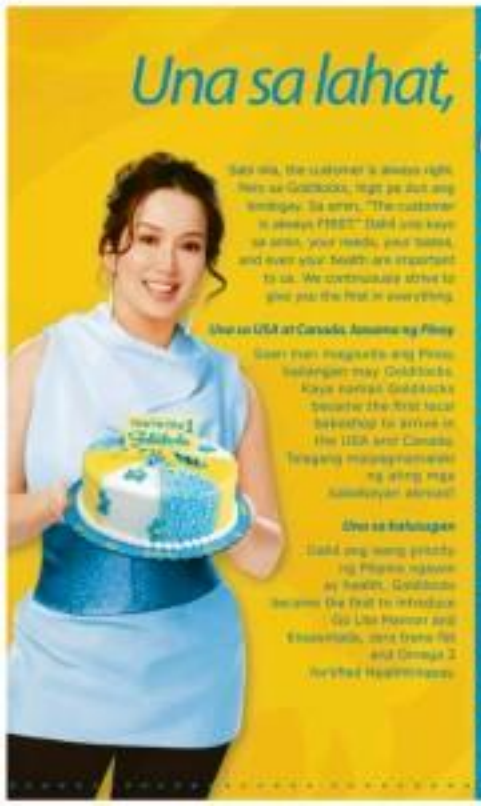
Stir the good natured wit and child-like humor into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense.

Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.

Applying this time-tested "recipe" will surely lead to a lifetime of happy memories. More tangibly, however, a cake of stunning beauty is a perfect symbol of a meaningful new union. For more than four decades, generations of newlyweds have relied on only one bakeshop to make their wedding cake dreams come true. Goldilocks Bakeshop has been THE ONE source of superb designs and breathtaking creativity, in both pre-designed and custom-made cakes.

Needless to say, Goldilocks has actually blurred the lines between these two categories. A prime example would be the **Allegria...Happily Ever After** wedding cake (pictured). This visual masterpiece is composed of a lush tower of handcrafted peonies, carnations, and cabbage rose, infused with traditional elements like white doves in seamless motion.

For inquiries about cake orders, you may call Ms. Terry Paje or Ms. Fe Noble at 532-4068 local 304/ 236, or through direct line 633-7771.



VILLA Jimenez's bed-and-breakfast inn is comfortable, using familiar elements such as architectural fragments and vintage light fixtures.

The lure of gracious living in Southern Luzon

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

By word of mouth, more and more people are discovering a Quezon hideaway, its vintage stuff, and native cuisine like 'sinaing na tulingan'

BANKERS EMILIO PEJAR AND WIFE Bienvenido wanted to spend their retirement running a restaurant and bed-and-breakfast in Quezon, so they transformed a part of the six-hectare property inherited from Pilar's in-laws, Catalino Jacinto and Dionisia Milla. They put up Villa Jacinto.

In short passage days, the couple sold estate jewelry such as lockets and tiaras to augment their income. The buy-and-sell business evolved into Pilar's Antiques, a place famous in Southern Luzon for simple but elegant Filipino period furniture and homewares.

The couple designed the Prayer Walk for his prayer group, which starts with a fountain and archway leading to quiet corners for meditation and contemplation.

Visitors walk through rockbeds of millionaire's vines and glow of tropical plants. Coconut trees, yucca and anahaw trees dotted with bird's nest ferns line the walkways. The grounds are covered with Jacaranda, yellowbell vines, interspersed with weathered railroad ties and pavers etched with imprints of elephant's toes.

Lush garden

The garden is lush with flowering bushes, evergreens and dahlias. Hyjar, jars, cement antique carvings and horse-drawn carriage from Batangas and Bicolandia, rustic outdoor tables and stone benches serve as accents. At night, the garden is lit with floor lamps made from old grills and embroidered window panes.

The walk winds up to the chapel, a genuine of architecture fragments and Bicol wrought-iron, grillwork, in altar made of balayong. Devotees soak in the peaceful atmosphere as they sit on outdoor benches and kamagong benches.

Pilar's caterer assistant is the cautious restaurant, Catalino's, named after his father-in-law. Antique shop clients enjoy the native specialties as they scrutinize the merchandise.

The restaurant specializing in local cuisine fills a void in Lucena where most of the dining places offer Chinese food and some

A PERIOD chair gets a contemporary look with bold colors.

to the Chinese-Filipino community.

Pilar built a covered deck by the cliff overlooking the Mauan river and the river-covered Mt. Banahaw. The place is lined with mahogany planks from the coastal fishing town of Guinayan.

The Art Nouveau railings from old houses in Quezon swoop around the place.

Like the eclectic architecture, the furniture is a medley of leather and wooden chairs from Batangas, Quezon and Marinduque that match the indoor and balayong tables, covered with vintage crochet tablecloths. The table is laden with plates and glasses from the '20s and '30s, and period orchids.

Fresh cuisine

Catalino's specialties in Southern Luzon cuisine which uses a lot of fresh coconut and freshwater from cultured shrimps.

Sinigang na tulingan (leg is canned from shrimps from the river, cooked with coconut cream and water. The sinigang is another dish of freshwater shrimps with tomatoes, ginger, grated coconut. Pinais is shrimps with ground coconut, wrapped in banana leaves, steamed and boiled in coconut water.

Pilar takes pride in using native chicken for inviting instead. Sipping with lemongrass. "It's organic and you don't taste the birds," he says. Missing na tulingan or tuna is fine, dried fish served with pajo, a variety of small mangoes which smells like dill. It goes with chili's tomatoes.

Kuryta, a fish dried under the sun for a long time, is crisp and tasty, and even the scales are delectable.

The dishes here uses frozen coconut paste instead of milk—its used for sugar. Fragrant and fine-grained rice milled simultaneously accompanies the dishes.

The place has been attracting visitors by word of mouth. Some even stay at the bed-and-breakfast cottages which cost only P1,800 a night.

The gushing sounds of water from the river and the symphony of the crickets soothe the senses and make dining more enjoyable.

Villa Jacinto is at 2407 Quezon palang, Lucena, Quezon. Call 042.7303711 or 0917.7439227.

CATALINO'S appeal lies in how it preserves vestiges of the past.

THE SIMPLICITY of antique furniture from Southern Luzon brings out the wood grain.

PAVERS with leaf imprints serve as garden accents.

Spa for intimate social gatherings

DISCOVERY SUITES AND TERRA WELL-ness Spa have created the ultimate spa party package ideal for intimate social gatherings like bridal showers, birthday bonding sessions, and anniversary and birthday celebrations. This unique package also serves as a different twist for small business meetings and corporate functions numbering not more than 30 persons.

The Spa Party package offers the entire Terra Wellness Spa as an exclusive function venue inclusive of specially-prepared "welcome smoothies" and 1 hr blissful massage treatments conducted by Terra's professionally certified therapists. Party organizers will be given a choice of five treatments for their event—Terra's Touch, the spa's signature massage; Deep Tissue Sports Massage; Cross-Meridian Facial; Coco-Olive Silky Body Scrub; or Sophora Foot Reflexology.

The hotel's expert chefs provide a range of healthy cocktail options with fresh fruit juices and an array of tantalizing teas.

Call 6309145-46; 6810222 loc. 3864 or e-mail terrawellness.spa@gmail.com. Terra Wellness Spa is located at the 4/F Discovery Suites, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. A maximum of 15 persons can be accommodated by spa treatments at any given time.

ALSO check out Discovery Shores in Boracay.

There's more to Windsor than the castle walls

Nearby the Queen's favorite home are interesting finds—from the best burger to British 'empanada'

By Margarita T. Locsin Chan
Contributor

LONDON...RIGHT? PEOPLE EQUATE Windsor with the castle, but not to a truly found one, there's more to the area than the royal residence. The borough is also home to a host of notable attractions, quality shopping and good food!

Just over an hour's drive from central London, Windsor is a mix of the antiquated and the modern, with the latter saintly and subtly mixed in with the terrifying the area's character.

Walking down High Street, one sees traditional English pubs and cafe shops alongside hotels, fashionables, McDonald's, all facing the walls of the 1,000-year-old castle that prides itself in being the Queen's favorite weekend home.

One of Windsor's main attractions is the changing of the guard, which takes place on High Street every 11 a.m. on odd number days except Sundays.

While brief, it makes for great photo-op, and little love watching the guards decked out in traditional military garb marching up High Street and into the castle. It's one of the town's must-see and there's just no excuse if you miss it.

If you decide to take the train from Paddington, you will arrive at Windsor and Eton Central Station, one of two that serve this area.

Constructed in Victorian style reminiscent of Windsor Castle's towers for the younger readers, Harry Potter?), the station is also a convenient complex called Windsor Royal Station. It is conveniently connected to Peascod Street, the area's main shopping street.

Toiletry and burger

The railway mall has UK and foreign brands from clothing such as French Connection, Whistles, Jaeger and Ghost, to toiletry such as Crabtree & Evelyn, Jo Malone and the very fantastic Rituals Cosmetics, as well as Oil and Vinegar, a culinary store, and Links of London, the UK's premiere silversmith.

There are also local gift shops and a small number of homemade goods, such as leather bags, silver jewelry and dream pillows.

One interesting store I chanced upon was COOK, which sells ready-made, homemade meals catering to all tastes and nutritional requirements, including gluten-free and vegetarian options. They make cakes, mains and desserts, even meals for babies, kids and special occasions.

I had the best burger while in Windsor, specifically at Carder Grill restaurant, also at Peascod Street. Time Out Magazine named them one of London's best burgers in its October 2008 issue.

They serve great British food with a variety of toppings (I had brie and caramelized onions), handcut Maris Piper fries on a flavorful sourdough ciabatta roasted bun.

My husband liked their steak and kidney pie, too. They use their own beef in house, cook it any way you like, and have all sorts a selection of burners and sauces, such as chili or herb garlic butter, hot gravy, Harissa and Blue Cheese.

Cards kind also serves ale, a beef and wild mushroom winter stew, which the neighboring table seemed to be enjoying, and has a variety of salads and desserts, of which the vanilla cheesecake was the most tempting.

CHANCING of the guard on Windsor's High Street

WINDSOR Castle

Jewelry and 'empanada'

Peascod Street, Windsor's main shopping area, has a good selection of British brands such as the ubiquitous Marks & Spencer, Topshop and Boots chains.

American mainstays Gap is there, of course (it's in every shopping mall and high street I've ever been to in the UK!), as are female fashion retailers Monsoon and Karen Millen, and men's stores Moss, Warrenks and Austin Reed. Tweed heyday is big in Britain, or so I've discovered.

One good find that day was Jojo Maman Bebe, a store specializing in maternity wear and children's products, where I was able to find good bargains for my baby. Considering the size of the store, I was surprised to find selections I had difficulty sourcing in the city besides being served by some of the nicest salespersons.

Another interesting find, although admittedly inappropriate to bring up with my husband until the recession, were the jewelry stores.

I saw some lovely pieces at Pearl Gallery of Windsor and in Ernest, a small store at Windsor Royal selling funky designer jewelry. There were also local gold smiths around, as the Dutch say value bespoke or customized jewelry were commercially produced were.

Returning to High Street, we also discovered the British empanada known as a Cornish pasty. Unsupplied by the Pasty Cornwall Cornish Pasty Company (an offshoot to Cornwall's pasty pasty inn Windsor, Thicker than our version, it comes in white or whole meat, and is offered in carnivorous, vegetarian and exotic flavors.

My husband enjoyed his Greek and Stilton pasty, while I racked into another customer's recommendation, the Indian inspired Chicken Balti.

Eton and Ascot

For families with toddler-age children and above, a pocentially fun destination would be Legoland Windsor, a theme park my nephew just loves: 40 rides and attractions are apparently interactive, educational and a lot of fun.

There's a mini golf course, building workshops. Or is it optional, after all, don't a feature called Kingdom of the Pharaohs, where kids get to live out an adventure much like the movie "The Mummy." The entrance fee is quite substantial, so I suggest making a day of it.

Windsor is also home to Eton College, whose only the luminous boys aged 13-18 are accepted. Its alumni several British Prime Ministers among us alumni. Tours are available, but pre-booking is essential as they run only on some days and school holidays.

For horse lovers like me, an excursion I will be returning for will be the races at Ascot. Some four family days when kids are welcome and activities like face painting are featured.

I will also be coming back for the Royal Windsor Horse Show, and in August for the HM European Show jumping and dressage championships. Both are some of the most important in the international equestrian scene and will no doubt be a feast for my eyes!

For more information, my host website to check out is http://www.windsor.gov.uk.

SM city north edsa
Experience

Confessions of a mall rat

In a few weeks, SM City North EDSA will formally open the doors to the expanded and perhaps most beautiful phase of its redevelopment. With its lush greenery, water features, a skydome, and retail and al fresco dining concept, it will be a landmark in the North Metro area.

The redevelopment is significant because it brings us back to the mall that started it all—SM City North EDSA. In preparation for this, we are running a series on the North EDSA heritage and how it has shaped Philippine lifestyles.

Two weeks ago, we took you to the Beginning . . . There was North EDSA, recalling how SM founder and Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. built the mall during a period of political and economic crisis, and made local retail history. Last week, we recalled the SM City North EDSA experience through its pioneer tenants.

This time, we listen to a generation that practically grew up with North EDSA.

By Pam Pastor

I have countless memories shaped at SM North EDSA— buying books, pigging out and growing up in the mall

My mother was a mallrat, making me a second-generation mallrat. I spent a huge chunk of my childhood in malls, not just on weekends but also after school.

When I was a kid, the mall we most often visited was SM North EDSA. I have countless fond memories of that place.

SM Department Store's toy section was a mecca for me. It became my habit to disappear and wander off to the Barbie display where I would stand, mouth agape, staring at the huge collection of dolls. I wanted to bring home.

This happened so often that the adults in my family had to resort to desperate measures—the child leash.

Channeling Houdini

The next time we went to the mall, my brother and I found ourselves bound to our grandmother. Armed with reins and cuffs that were attached to a belt around our grandmother's waist. Stainless walked around the mall, secure in the thought that we were safely walking behind her. But because the cuffs were just velcroed and not locked, it took me just seconds to make my escape.

Oh, freedom! would be so great.

When my grandma finally realized that she had been walking the child leash dangling behind her, they began to search for me. They knew where to look. They found me on the first try... in front of the Barbies in the toy section.

But I soon outgrew dolls and developed a big love for books. I spent hours and hours at National Bookstore, just reading the backs of books and trying to decide which one to buy next.

THE AUTHOR in grade school.

Since most families would head to SM to run errands, Sunset Dreams is kind of my getting reason to shun the early. I already had them—I was in fifth grade when I fell in love with Jordan Knight from the Boys Kids On The Block.

Trading cards and magazines

Soon, trips to SM North EDSA involved pestering my parents to buy Boys Kids On The Block and Beverly Hills 90210 trading cards and Bop, Teen Beat and other teen magazines so I can keep tabs on the Boys Kids, Leonardo DiCaprio and Luke Perry.

It was also around that time that I developed an interest in clothes. My mother and I finally said goodbye to the days of her having to periodically force me into fitting rooms just to try stuff on. I started to like clothes and since this was in the late '90s, what I liked were oxfords and more oxfords. We went to SM North EDSA to buy new Mad & Bone and Top 40 shirts that I would wear with neon cycling shorts, neon socks and white Reebok.

Unchaperoned

The first time I was allowed to go out unchaperoned with friends was in ninth grade, and SM North EDSA was where we went.

I remember getting leave from my grandpa and dad. And I remember the moment with my dad in Bonus right before I was allowed to run into the mall. It was such a big deal for my family that it felt more like I was leaving for a mission on the moon instead of just spending an afternoon at the mall.

At SM, my friends and I bought matching Spiderman pencil cases and those pencil cases became our badge of unity—they were proof that we had conquered the mall without adult supervision.

Tacos and chorizo pizza

I gained a lot of weight at SM, no thanks to days of pigging out with my family. My taco burgers were fairly common. I'd go to Pancake House at SM Annex, order four tacos to go and find the rest of my family eating chorizo pizza at Red Ink Pan Pizza, a place we all still crave.

We watched a lot of movies at SM North EDSA too, something from cheesy Tagalog comedies and Disney cartoons to big Hollywood hits.

Getting to watch the last full show was a big treat. I remember nights when my mom would tell our helpers at home to get dressed after dinner so we could all go out to watch a movie. We'd be bundled up in the car with our jackets, ready for the cold theater, all eager to get to the mall so we could watch the opening credits start rolling.

Trips to the mall were also essential on my birthday and my brother's birthday. Because my brother and I always received a lot of cash as gifts from relatives, my mom started a tradition. If it was my birthday, I needed to buy my brother a gift. If it was his birthday, he had to buy me something. It was a beautiful system that taught my brother and me generosity and sibling love.

SM North EDSA has changed so much since I was a child. The Block is sparkling new, which I love, but the older areas of the mall will always be special to me. Every time another, I find myself in a familiar spot, a place where my childhood memories were made, a place I like to return to again and again.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

He gave up engineering job for photography –and beetle collecting

By Angelica G. Gulay
Contributor

IN W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S novel "The Moon and Sixpence," a stockbroker gives up his job, leaves his family and heads out to Paris to become an artist. He eventually spends his dying days, still painting, in Tahiti.

Charles Strickland may be a fictional character, but his story was inspired by the life of the painter Paul Gauguin.

We sometimes fantasize about turning an unwelcome turn a successful. But only a few dare take the bold step, as befuddled Efren Cabigas is one of them.

As a telecommunications engineer in a Mom-and-Pop store, Cabigas had spent nine years handling every aspect of the job. Where he rose to supervisory level, however, his enthusiasm waned. He missed the routine most of new challenges.

In 2006 his father, a seaman, died while in India. Although the two of them weren't particularly close, the death affected Cabigas in a strange way.

"I can't put a finger on it, but it became a factor in my decision to leave my job and go into photography," he says. The doubts and confessions in his professional life seemed to have found release in personal grief.

Serendipitously a photography project came along, as though to seal his fate said. One night said, shortly his faith in his decision to pursue professional photography. The project was a coffee-table book on church facades, and he was asked to take the images.

Beginnings

The solo development were not entirely surprised. It was his father who had led him to photography, unwittingly. Back in high school, in Talisay, Cebu, Cabigas had begun tinkering with a camera his father had bought home from one of his travels but never really used.

ESTEAM Cabigas is also a mountaineer.

Inspired by the photographs in a Life magazine borrowed from a classmate, Cabigas started experimenting who glossy images in his area. His first subject was nature. In his senior year, he was asked to take snapshots of his classmates for the school annual. He continued taking pictures on and off through college (Don Bosco Mandaluyong) and corporate life.

He progressed from posting prints to show boxes to uploading digital images to online repositories like Flickr, through which he was discovered by Fr. Pedro Calvelo, OSA, for his book "Philippine Church Facades." Galleria in Director of then Ayala Museum, for which Cabigas continues to take photos.

Cabigas describes himself as a "religious colonial architecture enthusiast," besides being a mountaineer, movie fan and social observer. His works have covered art and documentary photography.

The latter puts he got the book project, two of his photos landed in the finals of a digital photography competition, while two others were exhibited at the Angkor Photofestival in Cambodia.

Cabigas took a leap of faith and helped discover Philippine species; he even has a few named after him and his mother!

Even with a growing folio, Cabigas did not leave anything to chance. He studied each design issue after quitting his job.

"One should also know video editing, multichannel media, to make it in this field," says Cabigas, who has also attended photography workshops here and abroad. Late last year, he got a travel grant and joined the Singapore International Photography Festival Southeast Asian Workshop. The outstanding exercises won an exhibit, "Metropolis," at Singapore's Centre, which traveled around Southeast Asia.

Cabigas is completing a scholarship diploma in Photojournalism at the Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism in Ateneo de Manila University.

An inveterate traveler, usually solo and with a bent for offbeat destinations, he documents his images with scores and insights on his blog, which won in last year's Philippine Blog Awards.

He has also contributed photos and essays to print and online publications. His memories are www.bergpass.com, www.cnnasiatraveler.com, and www.philgolfing.net.

In celebration of Imagem's first anniversary, he is giving away free photo e-books to subscribers.

GIANT beetle

Discovery

Cabigas is not just a photographer. He is also a serious collector of butterflies and beetles, an activity that greatly enriches his photography. He's not into it merely as hobby: Cabigas has contributed to the discovery of several Philippine species, all documented in international journals. Why he even has species named after him and his mother?

It started with a lovely collection project for his high school biology class. Encouraged by his teacher, he pursued the passionate collection on his own. In 1999, he shifted to beetles because they're easier to find and collect. They are also underutilized, he says.

As with photography, Cabigas embarked on his own education in entomology, particularly on Coleoptera (beetles), by reading scientific journals and consulting specialists. He has established contacts with European and American entomologists who furnish him publications and papers, mainly on taxonomy and beetle classification.

According to science books, nearly half of all animal species today are beetles, and new species continue to be found. The species Cabigas has contributed to science have been published mostly in journals like Les Cahiers Magellanes series and Lambillionea. (Check out http://vadagrisang.net/contributions-to-philippine-coleopterai/)

"Dahlqui nilitan was named after my mother while Atrodiaphus cabigasi and Phaliparus (Phaliparus) ursulinji were named after me. Four other species were unidentified by me," he says.

Degradation

Cabigas says Filipino entomologists lack references and books in general to compare collections abroad for study.

"Most of these collections were done as early as the 1800s entirely, many during the 1960s and at the start of the 20th," he says.

The country is fast losing its endemic species due to environmental degradation, he notes.

"Collecting insects doesn't deplete or lead to extinction of those species due to their high replacement rate. But deforestation and habitat loss do," he emphasizes. "If we don't study what we have, how will we know how rich our biodiversity is?"

He invites readers, especially scientists, to visit his subscribing our gallery and marvel at the beautiful and colorful specimens. His photos certainly do justice to the jewel-like creatures.

He has amassed 6,000 specimens from a thousand species, mostly from Mindanao, all stored in collection frames.

"With no fixed income, how does he sustain himself?

It can be difficult sometimes, he concedes, but with judicious management of resources, he copes well. It helps that he does not have a family to support. Besides photography projects, there are blog ads, and he's also thinking of opening an online store.

Earlier this year, his photo documentary "Coping with a Catastrophe" was published, on invitation, at the prestigious Chobi Mela V International Festival of Photography in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the biggest in Asia.

In March, he was in a group show, "Mapping Invisible Dimensions" during the Jakarta Biennale XII 2009. He is also working on another book project, on Cebu.

To anyone contemplating a similar leap of faith, he has this to say. Go ahead, follow your heart. But at the same time, be prepared.

Luxury and comfort aboard reconfigured fleet

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) recently rolled out its second reconfigured Boeing 747-400, which features brand-new seat luxurious cabin amenities. Dubbing some of the world's best airlines.

The latest PAL B747-400 (with registry No. RP-C7470) to undergo a facelift has new Business and Economy Class seats, state-of-the-art in-flight entertainment system and a new cabin design.

The new cabin amenities and interior look are to be viewed even wireless broadband.

Joining the aircraft by taking the B747 cabin virtual tour at PAL website (philippineairlines.com), where an immersive 360-degree view of Mabuhay flower and upper deck) and Economy classes can be accessed.

Renowned aircraft cost manufacturer Stuttgart of Germany supplied the 351 seats (56 in Mabuhay and 295 in Economy), offering generous seat pitch: 180 inches in Mabuhay and 32-34 inches in Economy). Luxurious Mabuhay seats are ergonomically designed and can be transformed into a flat-bed complete with a recess type privacy shell.

The refurbishment is capped by a new type of Mabuhay Class meal service called "One-by-One"—a la carte service where passengers select their own meal from a variety of choices.

PAL BOEING 747-400 has roomy and comfy seats.

Pilgrimage to Rome, Fatima and other European holy sites

A PILGRIMAGE TO SOME religious sites in Europe has been organized by author Shobacon "Shé" A. de la Serna. The sites include Fatima, Portugal, where a visit to Our Lady of Fatima Basilica, the tombs of Francisco and Jacinta, and a candlelight procession are highlighted. In Lourdes, France, there's the visit to the tombs of St. Bernadette, a Mass at one of the chapels and other private activities, plus a feast of Pizza and Lasagna, including a visit to the shrine and birthplace of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, better known as "The Little Flower."

From Lourdes, the group proceeds to Nice, Montecarlo, Pisa, and Assisi, Italy. At Assisi, the pilgrimage will include a visit to Francis, the Basilica of Santa Maria Degli Angeli, and the Benedictine cave garden and the "Eremito Crapet where St. Francis of Assisi died. The journey ends in Rome, Italy, where the participants will have an audience with Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Basilica, and a tour of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. Call 8134688 and 8134689 or e-mail shobacon@yahoo.com.

Media summit in Macau

Over 500 broadcasters and journalists and conclave in discuss Media impact, influence and integrity in Changing Times at the 60th Asia Media Summit May 20-21 in Macau, at the Venetian Macao Resort Hotel. The annual summit gathers broadcasting leaders from Asia and worldwide to discuss media's role in society and its development. There will be two pre-summit events on May 20 and workshops on May 21. Visit www.abilo.org.my/conferences/ams.

Tourism awards

Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chair Efraim Genuino and Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque will host the list of distinguished recipients this year of the prestigious Tourism Personality Awards given by the Rotary Club of Manila, in cooperation with the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies. The awards, now in its fifth year, will be held May 21, Thursday, starting 12 noon at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

Destination of the year

Northern Mindanao is this year's destination of the Pulitan Region Program, a project of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions that is geared toward helping the regions of the country to innovate, promote and package quality food products from the Philippines. The Philippines 2009 is ongoing at the SMX Convention Center until today. Visit www.thephilippines.com.

Baguio getaway

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Travel Briefs

FORTY-EIGHT members of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies from the different 17 cities and provincial chapters nationwide join the Philippine Airlines-led "Do to Beijing" familiarization tour. The four-day, three-night package tour, headed by its president, Menla Johnson, and director, Marilen Batin, visited historical and cultural destinations in China's capital, including the athletes' village built for the 2008 Summer Olympics.

P2,800 for two persons. Deluxe Room at P3,150 for two. One-Bedroom Suite at P4,150 for three; the elegant Two-Bedroom Suite at P5,450 for five, and the romantic Honeymoon Cottage for P5,300 for newlyweds who want to experience wooden bliss at this mood romantic haven. Extra stay requests within effective P1,250 per person, while children 12 years old and below sharing the room and bed with their parents are free of charge. Check-in time is 2 p.m. and check-out time is 12 noon. Promo runs June 15-Sept. 30. For more details accompanied Call 4340004, 4340802, 8388811. Visit www.cyberspa.com.

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Editor Ronnie D. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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Bloggers won't forgive Candy

BACOLOD CITY—THE HIRED TOASTMASTER OF COMEDIENNE Candy Pangilinan crying in remorse has been flooding the Internet—"blogosphere," making her the latest celebrity to be chastised by this new hobby-community.

Pangilinan was attacked by several blogs and by a Baguio-based lawyer for making a bad joke about Igorots

CANDY | 5

Sweet dreams are made of these

By Ronnie D. Velarde

HERE COMES THE RAIN again, the weatherman said, and indeed it poured the weekend before Annie Lennox was to set foot in Hong Kong for the very first time recently. Then suddenly the skies cleared. Chances are, she willed the sun to come out.

The Scottish singer—known throughout her 34 years of pure serving career for speaking her mind and getting things done harmoniously (melodiously, too) and with impressive results—had no appeal message for her fans in the former British colony that should be delivered in the most favorable environment possible. And they were only going to see HER LOOKS (FULLY) in her it.

"When you decide to take some responsibility for the world," she would tell a handful of Asian journalists prior to the hotel-crashing showcase, "you've got to believe in infinite possibilities." Including a climate change overnight, why not?

The showcase, not a full concert, would have Lennox alone accompanying herself on the piano in perhaps 10 songs (at least two of them from her chart reggy with the 1980s super-band Eurythmics) visibly scarce into a video presentation of her two-year-old campaign, SING, for HIV/AIDS awareness.

A few years ago, she told the journalists, she "personally witnessed" South African president Nelson Mandela addressing the world from his former prison cell on Robben Island. "He was—

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- "When you decide to take responsibility for the world,' this world music superstar says, 'you've got to believe in infinite possibilities'
- "This is my response. I can't put it down, knowing that life is so cruel to so many'

Great guests make televiewers' day

PROGRAM HOSTS THINK HIGHLY of themselves and their learning skills, but let's face it (even if they don't), the appeal of a TV show is largely dependent on the quality of its guests.

We have been reminded of the recent telecasts of "Spoon!" and "Kakaiba Ka Ba sa Grade Five," which had the good fortune of being graced by some outstanding guests.

"Spoon," ably hosted by Janice de Belen, is a cooking raw talk show that features celebrities who cook up a storm while talking about their careers and private lives. Thus, the program's appeal is two-fold, and its combination format makes it delightfully different from the cooking shows.

Obviously, the program's interest value depends to a great extent on the charisma of its celebrity cooks. As in recent telecasts indicate, the program's chief task is aware of this, so unusually interesting stars have been invited to guest on the program of late.

Boots Anson-Roa interacted nicely with Janice, whom she crossed with on the back on the 1980s in a memorable production of "The Wiz" (Wiz Khalifa, it seems, is a version pro-gram host herself, Janice kept her informative and candid poster up as she recalled the good, old days with her former co-star).

When Cherry Pie Picache guested on "Spoon" she was similarly endearing and bubbly. She enjoyed herself so much that she candidly said Janice that she would love to be invited back—sooner.

Most recently, it was Tessie Aguilayan's turn to cook and dish on "Spoon," and she was similarly classy and informative. Of particular interest to viewers who felt so much of how she entertained her self from a sexy starlet to an admired actress, and then to a psychology professor.

We trust that "Spoon" will continue to invite celebrity cooks whose parter is both entertaining and involving. Stars who are self-centered and unable to talk sensibly, don't deserve an invitation to "Spoon."

On "Kakaiba Ka Ba sa Grade Five," host Janice Gibbs recently had the good fortune of having as his celebrity guest-contestant the effervescent seven-year-old Tessie Tomas. Possibly, some television viewers may have thought that Tessie's participation made up for those low moments in the recent past.

What made Tessie stint in the show so bracing was her combination of unsophisticated like mind-ed to make a lot of money for her parents (sweet) and precocious aware-ness of the interacted very well with the program's young interviewer-persona, and they responded similarly well to her lighthearted remarks.

Their delightful banter made the quiz show's questions and answers more interesting to viewers, and a lot of learning was effected on both sides of the TV cameras and screen.

Other TV shows would do well to make sure that the guests they invite will contribute greatly to the quiz show haven't been all that involving. Tessie's guesting made up for those low moments in the recent past.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Interest value and *trio* keep shows lively and viewable

Make way for Simon Wood

Vivien Wood's son and musical heir, Simon, is releasing his self-titled debut album under Viva Records. Its 12 tracks are led by the carrier single, "Kailan Ka Rin," composed by Ish-Ged.

Simon will also take part in the Viva-produced "The Beat -the Philippine Tour" of Isaiah Gerwin, with performances on June 12 in Lipa, June 20 in Pampanga, June 26 in Dagupan, July 3 in Cagayan de Oro, July 17 in Bacolod, July 31 in Cebu and Aug. 21 in Iloilo.

Jackie Chan as underdog

In his latest movie, "Shin jaku boidoru," which opens in Manila on June 10, screen hero Jackie Chan goes against type and plays the underdog. His character, Smallbond, decided to leave the life of a gangster behind him and starts a new life. But, when he learns that his former colleagues are being used to front the Yakuza's drug business, he tries to put things right. The world premiere of the film, in Cantonese and Chinese might not make sin the entire Yakuza all by his lonesome?

'Iskul Bukol 20 Years After'

Eric, Vic and Joey's hot film, "Iskul Bukol: 20 Years After," is now on video. In the popular 2006 Metro Film fun entry, the Estrella brothers reunite with their old friend, Vic Tingzon, who has become a banana archaeologist. To-gether, they go on a weekly adventure in search of a magical silver cake that is said to have the power to make us beauty immortal.

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Candy ...

From page 1

during a mother's Day show here.

She was also the subject of a cop scandal involving actress which declared her persona non grata.

Pangilinan was quoted in the resolution as saying: "Akala niya Ignore ako, hindi ako Ignore, kaya pa ako," in a sequel.

Pangilinan apologized on her blog after it was critiqued by commenter from the Ignore online community. "I did not mean to hurt anyone, especially our Ignore brothers and sisters. It was a careless remark and for that, I am truly sorry," she wrote.

Damage done

She was defended by a cousin in an e-mail exchange with a Regalbased lawyer, who is in Amsterdam. The lawyer accepted Pangilinan's apology.

Some of the bloggers and online users who attended Pangilinan were also behind many negative opinion on television programs that had portrayed Ignorots in a bad light.

"It's been a week and I'm still mad at what you said. Yes, you did not mean what you have said but the damage is still there. Hopefully my fellow bloggers would not lose you from meeting our town again," said a post sent to Pangilinan's site. Andrew Cadiaos, with a report from Vincent Cadiaos, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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STA. ROSA

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4 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

LIPA

1 ANGELS & DEMONS
2 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
3 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
4 SUPER TYPHOON

DASMARINAS

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4 THE UNICORN

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2 BFF: BEST FRIENDS FOREVER
3 SUPER TYPHOON
4 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE

ANGELES

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3 SUPER TYPHOON
4 ANGELS & DEMONS

STARMILLS

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'Sing, my sisters–let your voice be heard'

"SING," THE SHORT FOLLOW-UP track on "The Annie Lennox Collection," deserves more than the point it has so far earned.

It is a collaboration between Lennox and 23 prominent female artists and acts (in alphabetical order): Anastacia, Isobel Campbell, Dido, Celine Dion, Melissa Etheridge, Fergie, Beth Gibbons, Heidi Hill, Angelique Kidjo, Beverley Knight, Gladys Knight, k.d. lang, Madonna, Sarah McLachlan, Beth Orton, Pink, Rolla, Rosie Reid, Shakira, Shingai Shoniwa, Joss Stone, Sugababes, KT Tunstall and Martha Wainright.

Best of all, the song reinvents Lennox's SING Campaign, the organization she founded to raise awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

Perfect time

Explaining why it took so long to put the collection together, Lennox says, "The idea came from the record company [Sony BMG], and it's really the perfect time to do it, at the end of my contract. It's like ... looking back on my life, and I'm very satisfied at what I see. It's really great to have been able to do all that. I even wanted to do creatively. And to be an artist—I have never taken that for granted."

The CD was intended for release in September 2008, but the date was pushed back to allow her to recuperate from a back injury. It was finally released in the United States in February 2009, and in the UK and Europe a month later. It's now available in leading record stores in the Philippines.

The songs are mostly from her four solo albums that span 15 years. One, "Love Song for a Vampire," is from the "Bram Stoker's Dracula" soundtrack. And two are new covers—"Waters of My Life," written by Issa Chaplin [Bisset], and Adi's "Shining Light," winner of the 2001 first Novello Best Contemporary Song Award, and the Ivor Novello Songwriter Award in 2002.

Well-loved

A music video has been produced of Lennox's version of "Shining Light," featuring her playing all the parts of the band. "It is one of my favorite songs," she says. "When I first heard it in 2001, I fell in love with it."

The other well-loved tracks are "Little Bird," "Walking on Broken Glass" and "Why?" [from "Diva," 1992]. "No More I Love You" [which gave her one of her four Grammys for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, from "Medusa," 1995], "Precious," "A Thousand Beautiful Things," "Pavement Cracks," "A Whiter Shade of Pale," "Cold" and "Dark Road."

"Sing" is from Lennox's fourth studio album, "Songs of Mass Destruction" (2007). Of this album, she was quoted as saying, "[These are] 12 strong, powerful, really emotive songs that people can relate to [and] that I can feel proud of, no matter if it sells 10 copies or 50 million.

'Dark album'

She also described it as a "dark" album: "But the world is a dark place," she said. "It's fraught; it's turbulent. Most people's lives are underscored with chaotic of all kind. There's ups, there's downs. A lot of people are in pain."

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Sweet dreams are made of these

From page 6

sage was that the HIV/AIDS pandemic in African was, in fact, a genocide. I resolved to do as much as I could to end the crisis. I'm coming out here behind my singing to express myself in broader terms and help give a voice to those who don't have the same opportunities as I do."

It is an awesome singing voice, to begin with, a compelling contralto that has sold over 80 million albums, to the three "opportunities," Lennox is one of the most talkented female artists on the planet.

The Americas music industry bible Rolling Stone ranked her one of "The 100 Greatest Singers of All Time." CBS/VH1 music TV channel proclaimed her "The Greatest White Soul Singer Alive" and gave her the sixth slot in its list of the "100 Greatest Videos of Rock 'n' Roll." Also, Lennox has had 24 hit singles, seven Brit Grammy Awards, 11 MTV Awards and five Ivor Novello Awards, plus an Oscar and two Golden Globes.

Gay icon, decorated activist

Her pop culture icon status is backed up by numerous music videos that have been featured on MTV during the cable channel's early years. The continent is enjoy a grand merci drawing to the LGBT (lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender) community, as represented by The Advocate (US gay-lesbian newsmagazine), which cited her "provocative onstage persona." On 1985, she wore a men's suit and danced about with a rose on her "Sisters Dreams" video; she repeated this in 2005, on the promo video for "I've Got a Life."

And now she's a decorated activist. She recently received the Red Cross Services to Humanity Award and was named 2008 Glamour Inspirational Woman of the Year. She is also an ambassador of Nelson Mandela's 46664 (the number of his former prison cell) Campaign.

Lennox sang for Mandela's 90th birthday celebration last year in London and was honored at the 2008 Nobel AIDS Gala in Virginia.

Asked about the well-spring of her "good intentions," Lennox said, "It's really a response, something I said would ... I can't put it down, saying that life is so cruel to so many people."

Lennox was born in Aberdeen, Scotland on Christmas Day 1954 and lived with her parents in schools of that with economical austerity facilities. It was a musical setting, family and she was an only child, but their financial circumstances greatly precluded music lessons for the talented girl. Still, she sang in church from primary school and perhaps her first Africa.

Not going away

She recounted: "I went to South Africa in 2000, and it was tremendously evident to me that women and children were unduly affected. I saw households and villages ... and I saw on the front pages of every newspaper—like the same the! We all know there isn't a cure for AIDS and it's not going away anytime soon. Worse, there's still a stigma attached to it."

In July 2005, Lennox was invited by British conservative Rhinelander Richard Little ("Post Weddings and a Funeral," "Bridget Jones' Diary," "Notting Hill, "Love, Actually") to help

AHHH! Lennox: "This is a lifelong commitment."

stage into deep water ... all day long, surrounding in that water, which is the environment of another world that you don't inhabit. At the end of every day you sort of come out and decompress ... [to] relax. You try to process all the images and all the experiences on your own, because you can't get really emotional in front of people; it's kind of almost disrespectful."

If this was the film shown during the showcase, it was clear she did not succeed in keeping it so. She apologized to the well-heeled audience at the very exclusive MO (Mandarin Oriental) fair in Hill's Grand dinner for being caught in an emotional mix. She had just said good-bye to "a very brave boy, too dignified to cry in the face of his misery," she said.

Early evening on wrenching devotal fellowers in front 30s to 40s packed the MO fair all three ... finally enough room to even snap their fingers to the beat of

Lennox, 48, is a decorated humanitarian "unhappy" in at least two significance periods of her life—as a child, and as a planet and flute musician at the Royal Academy of Music. Has she found happiness?

She quipped, "What makes me happy now? Hearing a red T-shirt with dress that sparkle." She says, in fact, recalling one such diary, and the letters spelled, "Happiness."

Apart from the obvious? "Things that can't be bought make me happy. A beautiful day, a sunny day ... friendship ... a hug ... a warm drink ... the smell of rollers ... seeing children in their produce plant of innocence ..." Ah, especially this last one, then SING, "my lifelong commitment."

Should she eventually take SING out of Africa? "Yes focusing on Africa because it's the place of my suffering and one of the countries with the highest incidence of the virus. I play it by ear, taking opportunities as they come. I support grassroots organizations—I'm in a very good position to do that as an ordinary International ambassador. I can also work with United, or step with African kings for her own work, 'Keep a Child Alive.'"

Once more, she was challenged: Are everybody volunteer their age could get to Africa.

"Uh, not everyone needs to. Look in your own backyard," Lennox urged. "In any place where children seem your care. Go to any orphanage. Hundreds of toddlers, with maybe a couple of caregivers ... you sit down on the floor and the babies all come ... because they need to be touched, to be hugged and held."

Does, speaking at the British Parliament, she appealed directly to the children of the United Kingdom to help children in Africa who were afflicted with the debilitating virus.

Almost imperceptibly, Lennox's eyes misted over. "Well, that's just one of the small things I do. But, really, you keep doing these small things because you just never know how far that would go. You may touch one person, who will touch another ... and another, until everybody is finally touching you."

Her own inner dreams are much of these.

Annie Lennox raises US$60,000 via a single gig, urges women her age to change the world

"day," she noted, the fans accepted that her current role requires her to "talk to the world."

Leaving not a big sigh, she said, "There's never a time when we really feel good about ourselves—which is probably a condition for being human. We're just never old enough. When you're young you wanna be old, when you're old you wanna be young. By the time you're 50, maybe you have a chance to finally start your own experiences of 'how I have to be young, now I have to be beautiful ...' Women, about 50, especially, have so much more resource that they often don't value enough. We should learn to value that."

Huge difference

Without question, she said, women over 50 seem to the best position to help overcome this. "They're the ones who have come into their big companions, the understanding, the drive and experience and the big power."

Turning positive, the outlined: "We're only in the present; that's what all the great sages tell us and I think they're right. But we keep projecting into the future or look into the past."

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How Hugh Jackman got that perfect 'Wolverine' body

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LOS ANGELES—EATING CHICKEN EVERY two hours helped Hugh Jackman achieve the body he shows off in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine."

Wearing a black polo shirt that hated his impressive biceps during an interview at the 2008 Comedy Fun Int, Hugh revealed with a laugh that his years from his chicken diet was dark chocolate. He quipped that when he heard on the radio that eating dark chocolate in moderate amounts has health benefits, he quickly turned off the radio. "That's all I needed to hear!" he exclaimed.

All that chicken and body training have paid off for Hugh—"Wolverine" has earned almost $150 million in 10 days.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rolando V. Nepales

Can you talk about the one-week diet you had to help you achieve the perfect body in this movie? How did the diet affect your mood? Maybe we should be asking Jackman instead but since she is not around ...

Yeah, probably you should ask Deb. The thing I learned about whatever body you're trying to achieve is that it's 70 percent diet and 30 percent training. I always thought it was the other way around. You've got to train hard and train harder. But now I think a lot of sports have caught up with this. Most sports teams have a nutritionist on board. Diet does affect who you are and it affects how you peak at certain moments. It's a true science and it fascinates me. There's a period of pushing on muscle where you'll also get no fat. There's actually no way around it. If you look at body-builders, there'll be a period when they kind of look big and massive but a little bit soft, a little round.

And then about three months before they go for a competition, they will concentrate on stripping down the fat because they are those two concentrate. Build muscle and lose fat. It's all crap. Basically, that's impossible for the body to do. So you have to do both together. The trouble is losing the fat without losing too much muscle. So in the bulking of the muscle phase, I was eating so much like basically two massive chicken breasts with another separate plate of steamed vegetables. Two breasts later, another plate would come to me. But it would take me 45 or 50 minutes to eat it because it was just so ... I always had a glass of food in my hand.

Everyone was kind of laughing at me. My body was constantly digesting. I was almost depressed. I felt flat all the time, really flat. There where it came on the part of still eating regularly but eating less, eating leaner, my energy level was through the roof. I mean, I could sleep five hours a night and wake up like, "Let's go!" I couldn't wait to train; it was amazing. Now, I've adopted that style

HOW 12

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Kidman leaves Allen film

NICOLE Kidman

LOS ANGELES—NICOLE KIDman has scrapped plans to star in an upcoming Woody Allen movie due to start filming in London later this year, entertainment industry press reported Wednesday.

The Oscar-winning Australian actor was expected to have been part of an all-star cast that also includes Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Brolin and Naomi Watts, Variety reported.

No reason for the 42-year-old's withdrawal has been given, the report said.

Kidman, who last won in the period epic "Australia." AFP

"IN THE muscle-building phase, I was eating so much, like basically two massive chicken breasts with another massive plate of steamed vegetables," says Hugh Jackman on transforming into Wolverine. (R)

How Hugh Jackman got . . .

From page 1

of eating five or six meals a day. My energy level is so different and particularly be kneeling, I get over so big quickly—no problem. So diet absolutely allows you. It's an interesting experiment to have with yourself.

So you had no dessert? No cheesecake issues?

I had dark chocolate. I was listening to the radio and heard this breakthrough that dark chocolate was found by scientists to be good. I turned it off immediately. I didn't want daughters to hear the other side of the story. One piece of dark chocolate every night (laughter).

Last time we spoke, you told us how your wife liked you so much in that white dinner jacket in a scene in 'Australia' and that she asked you to come home in that jacket. Does she like you better in costume?

All I'm going to say is you want to find I met my wife doing a prison drama with tattoos all over me body, very short hair, a mullet haircut, very long in the back and jacked up from the gym. That's how she fell in love with me so it's fair to say every time I put this on, she's firmly married (laughter). My wife kind of likes the 'bad boys and the dosers' like the fact she married a guy who in reality was the school captain in grammar school. That's not the image she likes (laughter).

Live Schreiber mentioned to us that there is kind of a friendly rivalry between you when you were training for this movie.

Yeah (laughter). It's a couple of 40-year-old Alpha males, you know.

Did you motivate or push each other to do the workout and eat (his blood) diet?

I never told Live to do it or anything. I noticed that when I was doing it, he would do it, too. He started eating the diet and we would train together. Live went like, "Ah, mmm, you're been training, I am so out of shape." All of a sudden, he's twice as strong as me (laughter). I don't know how that happened. But it is Live I genuinely look up to as an actor. He's the first person I rang to be part of the film.

Neither of us wanted to own up to the fact that our fights were actually hurting and we were bruised. But neither of us wanted to say "No, I can't do this one. I'm going to get my double in (laughter)." Instead, we were like, "You're going to use your double in this?" "I don't know." "Are you going to use your double in this?" I don't know (laughter). I'll see how I go. Let's see how we go after the first take." Cut. "How do you feel?" "I don't know." "How do you feel?" "I'm good."

What are you passionate about?

My family would say I'm a lover of philosophy. The idea of who we are and why we are here and all those questions have always been part of me. I love the senses. I can't get enough of it. I love eating. Now you know why the chicken diet was so brutal to me. I was eating a lot but it was not a lot of the things I wanted to eat. I'm passionate about people. Traveling has been one of the great joys of my life because you just get to meet so many people from different parts of the world. Also coffee (laughter) and dark chocolate (laughter).

Can you talk more about your interest in philosophy?

I'm interested in the philosophy of living that makes you happier. I think that's our natural state. I think there is an innate happiness. Ideas and access to life that we all forget three times out of 10; nine days out of 10. I'm interested in finding those keys and clues into life and philosophy helps me do that. I read. Jews twice a day because I find it completely changed my life, all for the better.

Email the columnist at ninquirer_5565@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Airplane Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/inquirersport.

Conan guests in Leno's last

LOS ANGELES—TALK SHOW HOST JAY Leno's last guest on the "Tonight" show will be the man who's taking over for him—Conan O'Brien.

James Taylor will perform on Leno's May 29 finale, the late-night host told a television financier Thursday and surprises are in store, he said.

"I have something really unusual and different planned, something really out of left field that we're going to surprise me. It's something really personal," Leno said, and has to do with the show and its staff.

"I think it will make people smile," he added.

Taylor was a sentimental choice. Leno said that when he left his native Boston for his comedy career, the pop star's music was playing on the radio.

Leno joked that his last show will look back at his 17 years on "Tonight" because that's "easier than writing new stuff."

O'Brien, who moved NBC's "Late Night" over to Jimmy Fallon in March, becomes "Tonight" host on June 5. Next fall, Leno will begin a daily 10 p.m. EST show on NBC.

The big names in Leno's final week include Mel Gibson, Prince and Billy Crystal. Leno's first guest when he took the show over from Johnny Carson in 1992. AP

What not to ask the 2 Davids

MEDIA PEOPLE who attended the press conference of Idols David Cook and David Archuleta were given instructions not to ask three questions.

The off-limits topics included: (1) the recent death of Cook's brother, (2) Archuleta's fundraiser for local diva Regine Velasquez, and (3) rumors concerning Archuleta's gender.

Sivone dared.

Nice guy Archie

To be fair, Archuleta is such a nice guy, said Pinoy TV Host who interviewed him. But you wouldn't have the heart to ask to-monster questions.

Archuleta is a charmer, PSA said. Or as Cook would describe Archie: "He's one of the most genuine people I know."

When Archuleta guested on "Ate Vilma" solutions, including the show's hosts, asked for snapshots onstage, co-ed.

In return, the hosts gift-ed Archuleta with a bonsai figuring, as well as tuyo pa bot, ice cream cart and jeepney.

The Idol runner-up said he had many jeeps on the highway and would like to add one.

Good luck.

Blue blood!

Bad but true.

A recent source relates that Kaka Bumanglag has finally left Lance Gerlitsch, with whom he fathered a love child.

MS has found New Love, the daughter of a Filipina who was once married to Asian royalty.

It's unclear, however, if NL also has blue blood in her veins.

Don't you dare

While Archuleta would risk life and limb for a purpose role on Fl-ra, Cook said he would gladly try Arlet.

Arlet himself is crazy about Philippine mangoes. "They taste like heaven," he said. "Like eating a cinnamon. I had two mangoes for breakfast."

"For some lots of mangoes, too," Cook told the hosts of "Eat Bulaga." He visited "Bulaga" on Friday and, just like Archuleta the day before, caused quite a commotion.

Of the fine and funny Cook said, Who-a-ppy.

Playboy and certified hunk

Deborah Playboy is handy to-volved with Gorgeous Celebrity, said a rivals.

Although JP is from a political clan, he's into show biz stats. Before EC, DP was linked to Beauty Queen.

DP's a hunk, said a source. When they last stood of the law abroad, PG supposedly took the fall for DP because he promised earrings.

The actor does note not to be, and BG remains an encounter to the public's eyes.

Boxing's Lifeline

If he were a contestant on the TV5 game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," host Mr. Some would choose published No Onanie as his Lifeline/Phone-a-Friend.

Answer.

He said Gerrie gifted him with a medical checkup for his birthday in April 28. In return, he-

presented Gerrie with "a clean bill of health."

Answer.

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show his stories to PEI editorial directors this week. (And why we are ranked, if we are ranked.)

•Charley Pamperger, valentine ng Sam. (20 na lang-yan.)

•Memory ni Gladys de Castro, bow lay Patrick Garcia. Or be running for public office?)

•Erik Aquino, komentador sa balay ni Rudla Gutierrez. (What can we say? At last, it's not?)

•Katrina Halili-Hayden Kho-ldet, Kendall, patok pa rin. (Enough!)

•Gael nina Mae Rosan si Ivan-na-Sanchez, Andrea-dult. (Di...)

•Sotinggil ang ala—Mar Roxas. (Pinalalim siya! Jun?)

•Regine Velasquez may mar pe-rin bay Chadee Pamperger. (Stellar boardings.)

•Myong-Myo ako kay Martin Nievera—Manny Pacquiao. (Eh... pare kasi?)

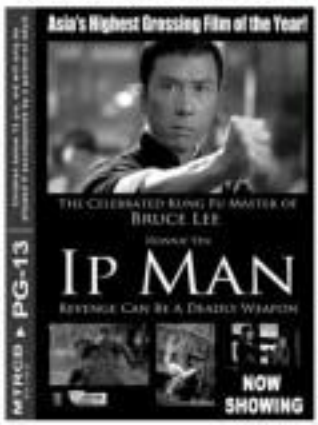
•Rudla Gutierrez drawup-away si Annabelle Rama. (Like it five days.)

•Sharon Cuneta, may lakay nawala. (Lam bay 0 042 to ako?)

•Jennylyn Mercado, Alex Jakulen na naman. (I never really gave away.)

•Kristine Hermosa, kay Jun-cho Bernardo pa rin hebigod. (Down, panda Jun?)

•Nicky Valdez, di-pag-ure na dahil kay Neas. (Lovegu, tol, tol.)

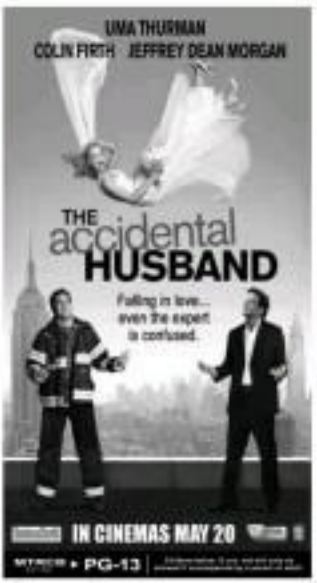


Robin Williams jokes about his heart surgery

NEW YORK—ROBIN WILLIAMS, who had heart surgery eight weeks ago, says he and TV talk show host David Letterman "are now brothers-in-law of the open-chests."

Williams, appearing on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman," was referring to Letterman's quintuple bypass heart surgery in 2000.

The 57-year-old actor joked, "I have a new valve and a repaired valve. I have a one-valve, which is great, and the groaning's been fine." AP



Behind the 'Miracle Boy'

By Rhoderick N. Cruz

THESE DAYS, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL for child actor Zaijian Jaranilla to meet people who ask him to cure their illnesses with one touch.

The 7-year-old plays Jiminu, who has the ability to heal the sick and the disabled in the Kapuso's drama series "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Jiminu is an orphan raised by a priest in a monastery in the fictional town Angeng Angeng. He finds a friend in five persons of "Iba" (Jason Abalos), who helps him change the unusual dilemma.

Zaijian finished first grade at the Governor Ramon Hermosura School in Quezon City. He first appeared in commercials for McDonald's, Lactum and Tide. MSO-GMA honors spotted him in an acting workshop and asked him to join the kiddie gag show "Color Shuttle."

Following are excerpts of Inquirer.net's conversation with Zaijian.

Are you aware that you're famous?

Hindi naman po masyado.

How can you tell that you're already popular?

Nandidito po si Papa sa shoot.

How did "Maalaala Mo" change your life?

Hindi na po ako nakakapunta sa mall. Hindi na rin po ako nakakapaglaro.

At school, do people get excited to see you?

Minsan po. Minsan lang po kasi ako pumasok.

What's your favorite subject?

English.

When people get excited and try to kiss you or punch you, do you get angry?

Hindi naman po. Magsasabi lang po ako ng sorry.

You're turning 8 on Aug. 23. What's your birthday wish?

Tatayo.

You were just 5 years old when your parents separated. How often do you see your mom?

Minsan lang po. Isang Linggo, or tuwing weekends po ako nandito.

Do you have siblings?

Ampunggo po ako. Ang mga kapatid ko po sina Zaniphes (8) and Zyrus (5).

Don't you feel bad that you don't have time for play anymore?

Minsan nakakapagod ako minsan po eh. Pero sa SM North (sitio kapag may taping po.

If you really had a special power like Gaston what would you do with it?

Tutulong po ako sa mga batang may sakit.

What are you closest to at work?

Ako Tito Lito (Pinamili, Kuya Jaypee (Cruz) at Bayo Damsite (Dilaw) po.

On TV, you seem to cry easily. What makes you cry?

Siguro po ang mga malungkot na nangyari sa akin.

What would make you cry really hard?

Kapag lumayo po ako sa Papa.

Are you happy that you're an artista?

Opo. Nagsaya po ako.

Do you have idols?

Si Vhong Navarro po.

Do you have crushes?

Si Cristine Reyes po dati, nguyon hindi na po.

What's your favorite food?

Dinuguan at sapsapan.

What items you bought from the money you've earned so far?

Flat screen TV po.

What else do you want to buy?

Bahay po. Ayaw kasi ako silang ibenta (imbakan).

How much is your school allowance?

Di po eako binibigyan ng pera. Binibili lang po ako ng pagkain, baon pa.

Do you have your own room at home?

Wala po. Kasama ko po ang mga kapatid ko at si Papa. Dalawang kwarto po kami. Ang mga gamit ko po ay na-kalong dinala ko nalalabag.

What about Lolo?

Si nalayo (Apo) nakatulog.

Don't you want to sleep beside him?

Ahuhuy na daw kasi ako matulog. Magtaping po daw. Minsan natutulo po si Lolo ng gabi. Si Papa po kasi ito-alagaan.

"May Bukas Pa" airs on weeknights after "Ti Amo."

TAKE FIVE

KYLA (kapitan and Kapuso Bagwis) and Sunshine Dizon (right)

Scaling SE Asia's tallest tree

BARA-DAYO SCALES THE TALLEST TREE in Southeast Asia—the Mayggis—on "I-Witness" tomorrow after the late night newscast "Saksi" on GMA 7.

The tree, called "Giant" or Lord by the Palawan natives, stands 16 stories or 60 meters in height, which reaches an average of 250 feet.

Kara Intrabuso renews a sense of the reasons who learned to scale the Mayggis to preach for the bird trade in her documentary "Climbing the Mayggis."

New 'Bingonaires'

Six millionaires have been produced in just a span of seven weeks by the game show "Bingo Bingo Night."

The new "Bingonaires" are regular players Claire Magsino and Evangeline Pinto while the celebrity players are Ubong Sorsorin, John Prats, Sugar Ortega, and Andrew E.

Tomorrow, day of Kamikaze from the 200 Bingoers while Gershom Barreto wins last luck on May 19.

Home viewers may also win big cash prizes in the show hosted by Kris Aquino, now in its nine time slot after "Sayang Dalawa" on 9:00-12:00.

CLICK!

Reality series

This month, 14 guys and girls are off to one rough and emotional Hawaiian reunion with their former classmates in the series "High School Reunion 4 (HSR 4)" on Mondays at 8 p.m. on ETC.

HSR 4 is a dramatic reality series which keeps track of the flashbacks, crafts, relationships and trends of former classmates from the 1987 graduating class of J.J. Pearce High School in Texas, upon reuniting after 20 years.

Relationships, feuds and revenge and the seven friends of Illinois are the shared stories.

Also back on ETC on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. is "Best Friend's Guide to Style 2," a new home reality series that transforms fashion-challenged women into gorgeous inspirations with perfect signature looks.

Music maestro

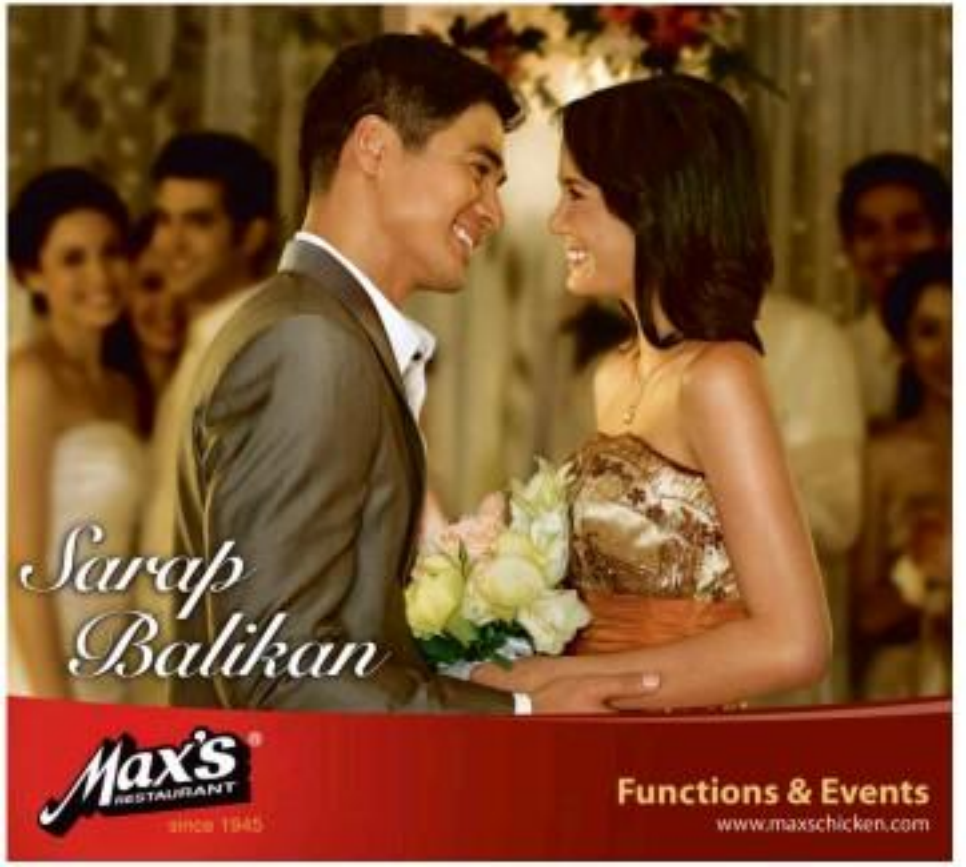
"Slumdog Millionaire," opens the doors to his recording studio, revealing the composing process which has lead to a successful music career.

He also takes viewers on a tour of his new conservatory, where he hopes to create India's first global music academy.

The episode airs on May 20, 8:30 p.m.; May 21, 11 a.m.; May 23, 12:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.; May 24, 4:30 a.m.; May 25, 10 a.m., and May 27, 1:30 a.m.

Rahman's interview will be available online at www.star.com/talkasia after the first airing.

'Survivor' finale

The quest to be this season's sole survivor is now down to the final four contestants—J.T. Thomas Jr., Stephen Fishbach, Erika Lobdell, and Taj Johnson-George.—as "Survivor: Tocantins" reaches its finale today at 2 p.m. on Q Channel 11, with prime time telecast at 7:30 p.m. and weekend replay on May 23 at 2 p.m.

The "Survivor Reunion" airs at 9 p.m., with a prime time telecast at 10:15 p.m. and weekend replay on May 23 at 4 p.m.